









## HOME NEWS

### Farmers give warning of food production fall as their incomes drop

By Hugh Clouston  
Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers gave a warning yesterday of a cut in home food production unless the Government acted to prevent a further reduction in agricultural incomes. Official figures published yesterday showed that some 100,000 cattle and sheep farmers in the province were losing more than £25 a week.

The National Farmers' Union issued a list of demands after ministers had admitted that real farming income in Britain had fallen in 1980 for the fourth successive year.

The union said that the income had fallen by a tenth in cash terms in 1980 and that it had been halved in real terms since 1976. Mr Richard Butler, the farmers' president, said: "There are unmistakable signs that agricultural production will fall if this decline goes on."

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that incomes had fallen in 1980 because the cost of farming had risen faster than food prices. The benefits from the latest increases in the hill livestock compensatory allowance and the price of milk did not affect the results for 1980 but will accrue to the industry in 1981.

The Government's annual review of the state of British agriculture showed that farmers' debts were rising while their incomes were falling. Despite Mr Walker's comment about milk, the Government stated in the review that

"further falls in income are expected on dairy farms".

The review also contained forecasts of further cuts in income on some lowland cattle and sheep farms and on farms where grain and potatoes were grown. It predicted that incomes would not improve on pig and poultry farms and on those growing cereals alone.

The Government expected incomes on all types of farms in the present financial year to be substantially below the figures for 1978 in real terms.

National agricultural income had fallen in cash from a total of £1,282m in 1976 to £1,025m in 1980, interest paid by farmers had increased from a national total of £129m in 1976 to £245m in 1979 and £460m in 1980. Yields continued to rise however.

Mr Butler said: "Food production tomorrow is being placed in jeopardy today. The world is becoming increasingly short of food, yet we are weakening still further our best insurance policy."

He called for tax reliefs, lower interest rates, subsidies to match those paid to other EEC countries, a rise of 15.2 per cent in farm prices in the spring and immediate increases on milk and potatoes.

Other official figures showed a continuing wide variation in the earnings of different groups. Families where the head of the household earned less than £56 a week, almost twice as much as last year, and little more than half as much as last year, were more than 2,000. Consumption of more than £200. Consumption of more than £200.

Annual Review of Agriculture, Cmd 8132, Stationery Office, £4.95; *British Food Consumption 1979*, Stationery Office, £12.50.

### Duke explains sale of Chatsworth Poussin

By Frances Gibb

The masterpiece by Nicolas Poussin, which the Duke of Devonshire has been forced to sell, has been sold to a collector in the United States for £100,000. The Duke said the sale was necessary because no national gallery is able to buy it, it was announced yesterday.

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### Death crash pilot unfit to fly, inquest is told

The pilot of an American Second World War light bomber that crashed at Biggin Hill air display last September, killing the seven people on board, had a history of psychiatric illness and should not have been flying, a doctor said at the inquest into the incident at Croydon yesterday.

Dr Anthony Hall, consultant physician at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, St Pancras, London, said the Civil Aviation Authority "should not have passed him as fit for flying. I think it is shocking."

He had once given the pilot, Mr Donald Bullock, aged 41, of Prince Albert Drive, Wimbledon, London, a certificate saying he was unfit from flying from January to March, 1976.

Now I wish that I had given him a certificate saying "thought he was unfit for ever".

Dr Hall, who treated Mr Bullock in 1975 and 1976, said Mr Bullock had suffered from depression for many years. Mr Bullock had come to him originally because he thought he had some physical disease.

"He was worried he had acquired syphilis in Peru. He was very worried about himself", Dr Hall said.

Dr Geoffrey Bennett, chief medical officer for the Civil Aviation Authority, said Mr Bullock was given a certificate to fly in July, 1980.

Mr Bullock had said on his application form that he had suffered from depression and had been referred to Air Vice-Marshal Patrick Connor for psychiatric examination.

The air vice-marshal said in his report that Mr Bullock had been symptom-free for the past month, was off medication, and was fit to fly. Dr Bennett said, adding that Mr Bullock had been taking tranquillisers.

Mr Mark Campbell, of Outwood, Surrey, said he was helping to organize the aircraft at the display. Mr Bullock had told him he was fed up because he had asked for extra time for his display and had been refused. "He wanted to do a barrel roll."

Mr John Knight of the CAA said the aircraft, an invader registered in the United States and not in Britain, had air certification for survey work.

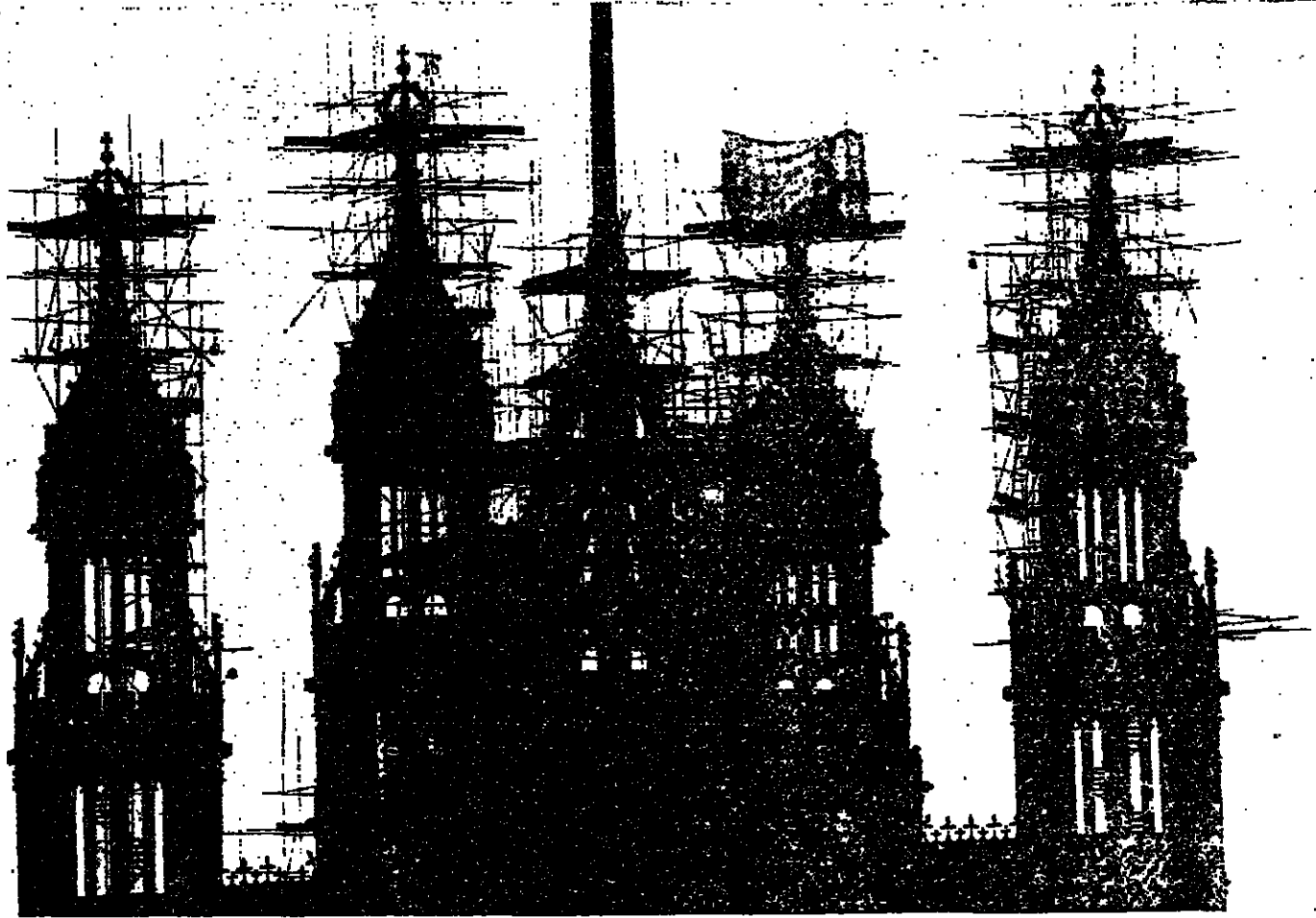
Asked whether that restriction meant "no aerobatics", he replied: "In my view, yes."

Dr Mary McHugh, the coroner said Mr Bullock had done barrel rolls before. But he knew the aircraft was certified only for survey work. Using it otherwise might have suggested some recklessness on his part.

The jury returned verdicts of accidental death on Mr Bullock and of unlawful killing on Mr Arthur Heath, Mr Garry French, Mr Roger Russell, and Mr Peter Warren, the British passengers.

No verdict was returned on Chief Master Sergeant Donald Thompson and Sergeant Mechanic, Kevin Vince, both of USAF Upper Heyford, because they are subject to an American inquiry.

The coroner said she was writing to the CAA suggesting that a committee should be set up with representatives of air display organizers, pilots, and the CAA, to consider the air display regulations and discuss whether non-crew passengers should be allowed to take part in displays.



Scaffolding in silhouette for restoration of Victoria Tower at the Palace of Westminster.

### Critics of Nationality Bill do not understand it, Home Office says

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Home Office ministers and officials are angry at what they regard as unjustified criticism and misunderstanding of their proposals for a new nationality law. A second reading of the British Nationality Bill takes place next week, probably on Wednesday.

Denying any racist or sexist implications they point out that the Bill does not distinguish between someone from Pakistan and his white neighbour.

In Whitehall's view the Bill makes compromises to avoid being sexist. To one criticism, that it abolishes a woman's right to automatic citizenship on marriage and replaces it with a three-year qualification, imposed on men who marry British wives, Whitehall's reply is that wives had an automatic entitlement, but men did not.

The charge is made that the Bill removes British citizenship from many thousands in East Africa, India and among Malay states. Chinese who were offered and accepted it when their countries became independent.

Altogether there are estimated to be about one and a half million people in that category. Many are said to be citizens of the countries they reside in. According to Whitehall, the Bill does not remove their right of entry to Britain, because they do not have it now.

The White Paper which preceded the Bill makes plain that the voucher scheme for East African Asians wishing to enter Britain will be maintained, and the Bill endorses that. On that point the former Government's Green Paper and the Conservative Government's position are said not to differ.

To criticisms that children born abroad to citizens not born here will no longer be entitled to citizenship, the Home Office says there is a marked degree of liberalization. The Government proposes that the citizenship of such children can descend by the mother or the father, subject to certain provisos. One of those is that the child returns to Britain with its parents: then there is an entitlement to registration after three years.

One of the controversies surrounding the Bill is that children born in Britain to non-British parents lose their automatic right to be British citizens.

The official reply is that the child born here would be a citizen if either of its parents was a British citizen, or settled here. Even if the parent were non-British but settled here, the child born here would still be entitled to citizenship.

At present, everyone born here is a citizen of the United Kingdom and the colonies. The change under the Bill is made because of the large number of people travelling, with the greater likelihood of children being born either in transit here or on a short visit.

Another argument quoted in the Bill's favour is that people who are citizens of another country would not have to renounce that citizenship if they became British citizens. They could have dual nationality.

To the accusation that the new legislation would leave many people effectively stateless, the official reply is that the Bill's schedule headed, "Provisions for reducing statelessness" is designed as a safety net, reflecting the generally accepted treatment of statelessness.

One of the main attacks on the Nationality Bill is likely to be on arbitrary discretion granted to a Home Secretary: for instance in deciding which persons shall be allowed to call themselves British if they are born abroad.

The official line is that under the Bill every child born abroad to a father or mother who is a citizen by birth will be a citizen by descent, a substantial liberalization measure, since at present a United Kingdom-born mother does not transmit citizenship to a child born abroad.

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### Airport plan for Wisley is defended

From Our Correspondent  
Guildford

A public inquiry was told yesterday that green belt laws were never designed to protect the countryside around London from airfield development schemes.

Mr Eric Davies, a valuation expert, told the hearing at Guildford, Surrey, that he wanted to demolish the argument that metropolitan green belt policies barred the development of Wisley airfield, near Guildford, as a businessman's aviation centre.

The hearing, which is expected to last several weeks, is into an application to turn the disused wartime airfield into an executive jet airport, handling 30,000 flights a year.

A London company, called Jenstate, is appealing against Guildford Borough Council's refusal to approve the scheme. The council has supported nearly 3,000 objections, says the development would breach successive government pledges to restore Wisley to agricultural land.

Mr Davies, a witness called by Jenstate, said yesterday: "Green belt policy was not intended to protect the countryside. It has always been part of the green belt concept and control policy that some development would be appropriate or necessary within the green belt."

That view was supported by several ministerial statements as well as the Standing Conference on London and South-East Regional Planning, he said. The function of the green belt was "to check the further growth of a large built-up area; to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another, and to preserve the special character of a town."

"Airfields are an acceptable part of the green belt and only major airports through noise, are seen as damaging or threatening the landscape."

A careful analysis of green belt guidelines showed that the Wisley development was acceptable on environmental grounds and was essential to meet the growing demand for quick and efficient business travel in the outer London area which could not be catered for by Heathrow or Gatwick airports, he said.

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### Manchester leads empty homes black list

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

Seven local authorities were named yesterday by Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Housing, as owning more than 1,000 houses which had been empty for a year or more.

The figures were contained in the authorities' housing investment programmes submitted to the Department of the Environment last summer, and showed Manchester at the head of the list with 1,869 empty houses.

Knowsley, Merseyside, had 1,400 empty houses, and the other five were the London boroughs of Islington (1,401); Hackney (1,267); Southwark (1,196); Lambeth (1,189); and Camden (1,080).

Five other councils, Birmingham, Levensham, Corby, Hamersmith and Haringey, had more than 500 empty homes and 25 had between 100 and 500. Sixteen of the 33 London boroughs are on the black list, and several of the authorities are Conservative-controlled.

The councils are certain to reply that the figures are misleading, since they do not take into account the exceptionally high number of council homes in places like Manchester, and that empty units should be shown as a proportion of the total housing stock.

The figures can also be said to omit local factors such as the notorious Kirkby estate in Knowsley, where many flats are unlettable because of vandalism, and the closure of the steelworks at Corby, which has led to a loss of jobs.

Announcing the figures in a Commons written reply, Mr Stanley said that the Government had taken extensive measures to help authorities reduce the number of vacant homes.

They could improve homes for sale with an Exchequer grant of up to £3,250 on each unit; sell unimproved flats at half price; or offer a 30 per cent discount on mortgages for up to five years in certain cases; and make short-term lettings to certain groups without creating secure tenancies.

From April 1 this year, the so-called 30-year rule would be abolished, so that subsidies could be paid for improving and repairing council properties less than 30 years old.

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### Prison officers to sue their union executive

Prison officers at Hull's maximum security prison have decided to return to normal working, but intend to take legal action against their union's executive over its decision to bring to an end the three-month dispute over meal breaks.

Hull officers have been defying the union by continuing industrial action.

They say the agreement reached last week was no better than that negotiated in September.

With colleagues at the Ashton training centre, they intend to bring a civil action against the national executive to try to force it to seek arbitration.

The board had also considered a black list of departments whose P.M.D. completion rates did not come up to an acceptable standard and who would therefore forfeit their right to the allocation of SRC awards for PhD students.

It agreed that completion of the PhD was an important part of research training, and therefore wanted to see universities encouraged to get their research students to finish their degrees, Sir Geoffrey said.

The board would recommend that the SRC set up a study group to examine further what should be done. The SRC will consider that at the board's other recommendations at its meeting on February 18.

Sir Geoffrey said the board regarded quality of supervision as of key importance and might bring out a code of good practice for PhD supervisors.

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### NHS cut in orders ends radiotherapy machine work

By a Staff Reporter

One of Britain's two manufacturers of radiotherapy equipment for the treatment of cancer, Radiation Dynamics of Swindon, Wiltshire, has stopped production of the machines after orders for them from the National Health Service collapsed.

Mr Vivian Boaler, the company's managing director, said that the health service's financial difficulties had meant that orders had been cut from four or six machines a year prior to 1978 to only two in the past two years. At that level continued production was not feasible.

The machines, which cost between £170,000 and £200,000 each, were still wanted by hospitals, some of which had equipment that was 20 years old, but money was not available for orders.

Radiation Dynamics shared the United Kingdom market for radiotherapy equipment roughly equally with MEL, a division of Philips Industries, which makes 85 per cent of its machines for export.

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## HOME NEWS

## Home Office criticized for leaving hostels out of fire Act

Dr David Paul, the North London coroner, criticized the Home Office yesterday for failing to bring hostels within the ambit of the Fire Precautions Act, 1971, which gives fire services the right to enforce certain precautions on the running of public buildings.

Conducting an inquiry into the deaths of 10 women in the hostel at Salisbury Road, Kilburn, on last March 18, Dr Paul said that a hostel had never been officially defined and was among those buildings designated by the Home Secretary to come under the Act.

Addressing the jury, he said: "It would seem that the spur and urgency of this new fire tragedy lost its impetus. I will see that a recommendation goes to the department responsible for the inclusion of hostels under this Act."

He had criticized the London Borough of Brent, while recognizing that it had not failed in its statutory duties. "There is a sense of law behind which can be found shelter," he said. He hoped his recommendation and one from the borough would speed clarification of the law.

He in no way denigrated organizations like the Missionaries of Charity who, he said, "fulfill a vital role in caring for the destitute."

The first that Brent knew officially of the hostel was when it received a planning application in September, 1979.

## McAliskey shootings: 3 in court

From a Staff Reporter Belfast

Three men appeared before the petty sessions in Dungannon, Co Tyrone, yesterday accused of the attempted murder of Mrs Bernadette McAliskey and her husband, Michael McAliskey, last Friday.

The three were further remanded to Belfast Magistrates Court on Friday.

The accused are Thomas Graham, aged 37, unemployed, of Lisburn; Raymond Smallwood, aged 30, a lorry driver, of Lisburn; and Andrew Watson, aged 26, an electrician, of Dunmurry.

All are accused of attempting to murder the McAliskies at their remote farmhouse home near Coalisland, Co Tyrone.

Mr Watson is also accused of attempting to murder Mr Sean McConville who was wounded in a gun attack at a tyre store in Dromara, Co Down, in November.

According to police evidence Mr Watson replied "no" to each of the charges, as did the other two.

McAliskey appeal: Mr Martin McAliskey yesterday lost his appeal against a 12-year prison sentence for falsely impersonating a senior Army officer. He told the Court of Appeal in Belfast that he would "fight to prove his innocence."

Last year Mr McAliskey came to the brink of death in a 66-day hunger strike to try to prove his innocence.

## Tory MPs seek action over race population

A new backbench group of Conservative MPs was formed last night to campaign for remedial action against what it called "the accelerating growth of the non-indigenous population."

Announcing the formation of an "Immigration Group", Sir Ronald Bell, MP for Beaconsfield, said its members were "deeply concerned at the unchecked and accelerating growth of the non-indigenous population, both New Commonwealth and alien, by net immigration and natural increase."

The MPs alleged that "exaggerated references to race relations pressure groups had so boxed in the Home Office that the change in the population balance would be allowed to continue unless a vigorous official campaign were mounted."

## Health danger feared in toxic waste regulations

By David Nicholson-Lord

Loopholes in new regulations on the disposal of toxic waste would seriously increase the risk of accidents and contamination of water supplies, local authority leaders said yesterday.

Fears about the health dangers of the regulations, due to take effect in March, have prompted the main local authority associations to lobby MPs to oppose their introduction.

A motion opposing them has this week been debated in the House of Lords, and further opposition is expected in the Commons where a dozen MPs, headed by Mr Charles Morrison, have signed an all-party prayer for their amendment.

The regulations brought in under the control of Pollution Act, 1974, will replace the Disposal of Poisonous Waste Act, 1972, an emergency measure introduced in response to controversy about dumping of cyanide in the Midlands and involving an extensive system of advance notification to councils where

## WEST EUROPE

## Dane put in charge of European agriculture

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Jan 21

Mr Poul Dalsager, Denmark's new European Commissioner, was today put in charge of the EEC's common agricultural policy, the crucial job previously held by his late compatriot, Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, who died suddenly last week.

Mr Dalsager, who received strong backing from his Government, fought off a challenge from at least two other Commissioners. He seems to owe his agricultural job mainly to the desire of Mr Gaston Thorn, the new Commission President, to avoid another painful row over the allocation of portfolios.

Mr Thorn's presidency got off to an embarrassing start earlier this month because of a well-publicized dispute over control of the EEC's finances involving Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the senior British Commissioner, and the new Irish Commissioner, Mr Michael O'Kennedy.

Mr Gundelach's death might have led to a general reshuffle of posts and risked reopening barely healed wounds. As it is, all other jobs will remain as previously allocated.

The only minor change is that fisheries, which had also been handled by Mr Gundelach, has been entrusted earlier than expected to the new Greek Commissioner, Mr George Konogeorgis, who is also responsible for transport and energy.

It appears that a majority of Commissioners would have preferred to see Mr Frans Andriessen, the new Dutch Commissioner, in the farm job. As a tough-minded former finance minister, he is felt by many to be the better man at a time when the Community is



Mr Poul Dalsager: Fought off strong challenge.

under pressure to reduce the cost of its profligate agricultural policy.

It was argued that as a former Danish agriculture minister, Mr Dalsager was too much under the influence of the farming lobby in a country which has a major stake in keeping the farm support system in its present form.

Those who have seen Mr Dalsager at work in the EEC Council of Ministers also tend to have a poor opinion of his abilities and detailed grasp of what is a notoriously technical subject.

It seems that Mr Andriessen's bid for the farm job was effectively scuppered by Signor Lorenzo Natali, the Italian Commissioner, who apparently felt that he had the strongest claim to the post if it did not go to the Dane. The Italians have long felt that Mediterranean agriculture has been neglected.

As for Mr Tugendhat, he was not present at today's deliberations. He was taken to hospital this morning apparently suffering from food poisoning. His condition was said tonight not to be serious.

## Gloomy view of Madrid conference at half-way stage

## West seeks Soviet détente pledge

By David Spanier

Western countries intend to table important new proposals on human rights at the European security review conference in Madrid, which resumes next Tuesday, in the hope that the Soviet Union can be persuaded to make a new commitment to détente.

From the British Government's assessment of the review conference at the half-way stage, however, a very gloomy picture emerges of the continuing decline of human rights in the Soviet-bloc states.

The new Western proposals, which will be debated by the conference over the next two weeks, cover such key issues as allowing ordinary citizens to monitor implementation of the provisions of the Final Act without being persecuted, increasing the flow of newspapers and other publications, assisting journalists to work freely, and helping people get exit visas and families to be reunited.

In the disarmament field, there is also a French proposal for a conference to produce confidence-building measures.

If there is no sign of serious progress by the conclusion of the drafting phase at the end of February, Western countries would probably seek to bring the conference to a speedy conclusion, without covering over the differences.

On the other hand, some conference sources believe that as things have gone so badly for détente in recent months, they can only take a turn for the better.

The official British view is that implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Soviet bloc has shown "no improvement in the past few years."

"In the Soviet Union, trials, arrests, deportations to mental hospitals and harassment of dissidents, religious believers and members of non-Russian minorities continued before and during the Madrid review conference," Mr Blaker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, states in a parliamentary answer.

More than 300 dissidents have been arrested and some 50 have emigrated since early 1979. Nothing shows the rate of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has fallen sharply from a record 50,000 in 1979 to 21,500 in 1980, Mr Blaker spoke of official harassment and obstruction.

"There is also evidence of increased harassment and persecution of Jews over the past few months. Seminar members have been intimidated and other groups in drama, history and religion have been proscribed. Children's classes in Hebrew and Jewish culture

and civilization have been forcibly closed."

According to Mr Blaker, there has been some progress in Poland in the implementation of some provisions of "Basket I" of the Helsinki Final Act. Some political detainees have been released. The Roman Catholic Church has been given increased access to the mass media, and a new law on censorship is to be prepared for discussion.

"Elsewhere in Eastern Europe," he said, "there have been no major developments in the human rights field."

Turning to "Basket II"—cooperation in the fields of economics, science, technology and the environment—the picture was not much brighter. "There have been no major changes in the implementation record of the Soviet Union and East European countries in this area," Mr Blaker said. The main restriction on an expansion of East-West trade continues to be the shortage of hard currency in the countries of the Soviet bloc.

"In 'Basket III' covering humanitarian cooperation, 'Soviet performance on family reunification remains disappointing. Despite official representations and the handing over of a list of outstanding cases to Moscow, there has been virtually no reduction in their number."

Parliamentary report, page 11

## Swiss timing put in step with the rest of Europe

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Jan 21

The Swiss cabinet decided today that the country will keep in time with the rest of Europe this summer by putting clocks forward an hour at 2 am on March 29. They will be put back an hour at 3 am on September 28.

As befits a people for whom split-second timing is sacrosanct, it has taken the Government three years to persuade the public to accept the idea of daylight saving.

After the failure of an attempt in 1977 to introduce summer time, the following year a national referendum decisively rejected the whole concept. It was held largely on the initiative of farmers who contended that tinkering with time would dislocate their cows' routine.

But Switzerland had to consider when West Germany and Austria last year followed the example of France and Italy by introducing summer time leaving Switzerland an awkward hour out all last summer.

## Berlin 'a symbol of the past' says Mme Veil

From Our Correspondent Berlin, Jan 21

Mme Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament, today signed her name to the "Golden Book of the City of Berlin" at Charlottenburg Castle.

Mme Veil spoke of the solidarity of the EEC with the Berlin population and the need for the EEC to be a symbol of the past, wanted to overcome once and for all through the Treaties of Paris and Rome.

Opening of the judicial investigation by a judge of the Court of Appeal was ordered about the same time as the commission started its hearing. Information which was tried to be kept from the public.

M. Joxe was referring to alleged new revelations by two police officials contained in the latest issue of the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné*, which had brought up with its disclosures of the police reports on the threats to the prince's life.

The majority of the commission have consistently refused to hear the evidence of the police officials on the basis of whose information the reports about the assassination threats were sent to M. Jean Duret, the director of the Paris criminal police. M. Duret told the commission that he had not thought the reports worth sending on to his superiors.

The two police officials, a serving inspector of the criminal police, and a former one, told the investigating judge

## Four new members join Danish Cabinet

From Christopher Follitt Copenhagen, Jan 21

Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Danish Prime Minister, has increased his Cabinet from 17 to 20 members in his first reshuffle since his Social Democratic minority government came to power on October 26, 1979.

The move was caused by the appointment last week of Mr Poul Dalsager, the former Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, as EEC commissioner in Brussels after the death of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach.

The portfolios affected are those of Agriculture, Fisheries, Inland Revenue, Justice, Interior and Greenland and Church Affairs. Agriculture, Inland Revenue, Justice and Greenland and Church Affairs are taken over by new members.

Fisheries and Interior, which were previously linked with Agriculture and Justice respectively, become separate portfolios.

Mr Jørgensen Peder Hansen, the former Minister for Greenland and Church Affairs leaves the Government.

The list of the Cabinet is as follows: Prime Minister: Anker Jørgensen; Foreign Affairs: Erik Østergaard; Justice: Poul Dalsager; Interior: Poul Hennrich; Agriculture: Poul Hennrich; Fisheries: Poul Hennrich; Inland Revenue: Poul Hennrich; Greenland and Church Affairs: Poul Hennrich; Labour: Poul Hennrich; Health: Poul Hennrich; Education: Poul Hennrich; Culture: Poul Hennrich; Science and Technology: Poul Hennrich; Environment: Poul Hennrich; Transport: Poul Hennrich; Social Affairs: Poul Hennrich; Defence: Poul Hennrich.

## Italy cool to Giscard pressure

From John Earle Rome, Jan 21

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, paid a one-day visit here today for a round of talks with Italian leaders in the middle of a busy week for Italian diplomacy.

His discussions, centred on the problems of Europe and the Middle East in the light of the Reagan Administration's expected policies, began with a call on President Sandro Pertini, followed by meetings with Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the Prime Minister, and Signor Emilio Colombo, the Foreign Minister.

Similar themes are expected to be on the agenda of the two-day visit beginning tomorrow of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France. If the French bring up Libya's intended union with Chad, the Italians are expected to resist any pressures to scale down their links with Libya.

In fact, Signor Enrico Manca, the Foreign Trade Minister, returned early today from a visit to Tripoli devoted to the prospects of expanding economic ties.

He also brought up the stoppage in Libyan gas supplies since the beginning of the year, due to the PLO's insistence on a higher price, and Libya's failure to maintain an earlier undertaking to increase oil supplies last year.

It is understood that this will come up at a meeting of a mixed economic commission in March, at which the Italians hope to clarify the whole range of their commercial and technological involvement in Libya.

Dependent as it is on imports for four-fifths of its energy needs, the search for diversified supplies is a constant theme of Italian policy-makers.

Signor Colombo returned last weekend from Venezuela, where he discussed the transfer of know-how and technical collaboration in return for increased oil deliveries.

## Giscard poll lead

Paris, Jan 21—President Giscard d'Estaing is leading M. François Mitterrand, his Socialist challenger, in next April's presidential election, by 51 to 49 per cent in public opinion, according to the latest Sofres opinion poll published by *Le Figaro*.

Just as the murder of Prince Jean de Broglie was highly political, the work of the commission was also marked from the beginning more by political preoccupations than a desire to enlighten justice. The Socialists and Communists felt this was a case where they could damage the reputation of President Giscard d'Estaing through his friend, M. Poniatowski.

The Argentine diplomat's remarks came amid mounting apprehension that the talks, now in the fourth month, might end in a stalemate, once more heading for collapse. Over the past seven years, since the *de facto* partition of Cyprus in the wake of the Turkish invasion, several intercommunal talks have ended in deadlock.

Senor Gobi's admission was made to journalists just as the sixteenth weekly session of the talks was due to start at the Ledra Palace Hotel here.

## OVERSEAS

## Strikes threat hangs over tense Warsaw talks with Solidarity

Warsaw, Jan 21—After the announcement of warning strikes in four provinces, Mr Leszek Waleza, the leader of Solidarity, the independent Polish labour organization, today met Government officials in an apparent effort to head off a new clash with the regime.

In spite of an earlier indication from the Government, its delegation was not led by Mr Mieczyslaw Jagielski, the Deputy Prime Minister, and chief strike negotiator, who was unable to attend for a sudden illness, informed sources said.

The Government side was led instead by Mr Aleksander Kopec, a Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Waleza and several other union leaders and aides flew to Warsaw from Gdansk on a chartered aircraft.

The crucial bargaining round between Solidarity and the Government, the second such meeting in three days, came as four chapters of the union called warning strikes in support of their demands for a five-day week and access to the mass media.

Earlier a Solidarity spokesman in Gdansk said strikes, mostly to be staged in the mornings, would take place in the provinces of Gdansk, Bydgoszcz, Czestochowa and Kutno. Other Solidarity chapters may follow suit, he said.

The meeting in Warsaw with the Government negotiators was seen as a last-minute attempt

at reaching a compromise to prevent the strikes.

Just before the meeting with the Government, the Mazowiec, or Warsaw area, chapter held a meeting to decide whether it should join in the warning strikes.

Before the Mazowiec meeting here, Mr Zbigniew Janas, leader of Solidarity at the Ursus factory outside Warsaw, said his members were determined to strike.

Both the Government and moderate Solidarity leaders appeared to fear an escalation of new labour unrest.

"This is why they (the Government) have advanced the meeting with union leaders that was earlier scheduled to take place on Thursday," one informant said.

The decision of individual area chapters to go ahead with strikes came in the wake of yesterday's session of Solidarity's national coordinating commission. It was strongly critical of what it described as Government failure to honour key commitments made in agreements to end strikes last year and over the winter.

Mr Waleza and other moderate delegates who opposed the warning strikes.

Meanwhile, Solidarity's chapter at Jelenia Gora, a town west of Wroclaw, announced that it would consider strike action if the Government failed to send a commission there tomorrow which could sign an accord on a variety of demands.

## Mayors put terms for recognizing Israel

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Jan 21

Two former Arab mayors, who were expelled from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, today urged the EEC to pursue its independent peace initiatives in the Middle East and said they saw no future for the American-sponsored Camp David talks between Egypt and Israel.

The two men—Mr Fahd Kawasmeh from Hebron and Mr Muhammad Melhem from Halhul—also indicated that recognition by the Arabs of Israel's right to exist would follow once an independent Palestinian state had been established.

The former mayors, who were expelled by the Israeli authorities last May for alleged complicity in Palestinian guerrilla activity, were speaking at a press conference organized by the Liaison Office in Brussels of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Neither Arab countries generally, nor the PLO, have ever publicly recognized the existence of the Israeli republic proclaimed in 1948. Militant Arabs still refer to Israel as a "Zionist entity" and say they will not rest until it has been eliminated.

Emphasizing that he was speaking personally, Mr Kawasmeh said: "I think if we accept a Palestinian state, we accept in principle the other's (Israel's) right (to exist). But at the moment we cannot say this officially."

Expressing cautious optimism about the EEC's peace mission, Mr Melhem said that European states must act independently. As long as you (Europeans) follow the Camp David peace process, there will be no way out."

The two men said they expected no change from the new Reagan Administration in America, and that the Camp David process, even if amended, could lead nowhere. They also thought that the Labour Opposition in Israel would be "equally repressive" if it replaced the Begin Government.

EEC Foreign Ministers yesterday authorized their Dutch colleague, Mr Christiaan van der Klaauw, to make a new tour of Middle East capitals, following up the visits made last August and September by Mr Gaston Thorn, who was then the Luxembourg Foreign Minister.

Mr van der Klaauw will be seeking to clarify such issues as the territorial extent and population of a future Palestinian state, the timing and manner of an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, security guarantees, and the status of Jerusalem.

One of the main points of difference between the EEC and the United States is the Community's view that the PLO must be involved in the peace negotiations if they are to produce any durable settlement.

## Carrington stand will be welcomed by Israel opinion

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has some strong words on the right of Israel to exist "not merely on the map but as a member of the family of nations," when he addressed an Arab audience in London last night.

Talk of expelling Israel from the United Nations, or "liquidating the Zionist entity," does no service to the Arab cause," Lord Carrington said. He was addressing businessmen at the Arab Community dinner.

"The only result of saying there is no co-existence with Israel is that there is no point in trying to negotiate with the Arabs," he said.

Lord Carrington's comments that Israel's future must be secure, which will certainly be welcomed by the Israeli public, came on the eve of his visit to London by Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli opposition leader, tomorrow. He will be meeting Lord Carrington to discuss the next phase in Middle East peace moves.

In another important visit, it is learned that Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, may make an official visit to Saudi Arabia on her way back from India in April.

## Salisbury renews state of emergency laws

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Jan 21

The Zimbabwe Parliament today renewed the state of emergency at the request of Mr Richard Hove, the new Minister of Home Affairs. The emergency has been in force since 1965.

Mr Hove said the renewal was needed for four reasons: the threat posed by former guerrillas who were still based in the area; the activities of gangs of dissident former guerrillas; the generally undesirable level of violence in the country; and the presence on Zimbabwe's border of rebels belonging to the Mozambique Resistance Movement.

The only opposition to the renewal in a vote of 56 to 14 came from members of the Rhodesian Front Party which originally imposed the emergency in November, 1965. The party said that there was no need for the emergency.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the leader of the Patriotic Front Party, whose former portfolio was taken over this week by Mr Hove, was not in the House of Assembly for the vote, but those members of his party who were present voted with Mr Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) party.

## UN aide admits Cyprus discussions deadlocked

From Our Correspondent Nicosia, Jan 21

Senor Rigo Gobi, the special United Nations representative in Cyprus, admitted for the first time today that there has been no concrete result so far in the inter-communal talks for a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

The Argentine diplomat's remarks came amid mounting apprehension that the talks, now in the fourth month, might end in a stalemate, once more heading for collapse. Over the past seven years, since the *de facto* partition of Cyprus in the wake of the Turkish invasion, several intercommunal talks have ended in deadlock.

Senor Gobi's admission was made to journalists just as the sixteenth weekly session of the talks was due to start at the Ledra Palace Hotel here.



# Ford gives you more

Last December Ford introduced the Fiesta Popular. At just £2849\* it was astonishing value for money. And an instant success.

Two weeks later, another sensation. Motoring journalists from 16 countries voted the new Ford Escort 'Car of the Year 1981'.

Why? Once again a major factor in the decision was the Escort's value for money.

It's been said that it is a brilliant and

advanced design, one of the most up to date cars on offer for the money.

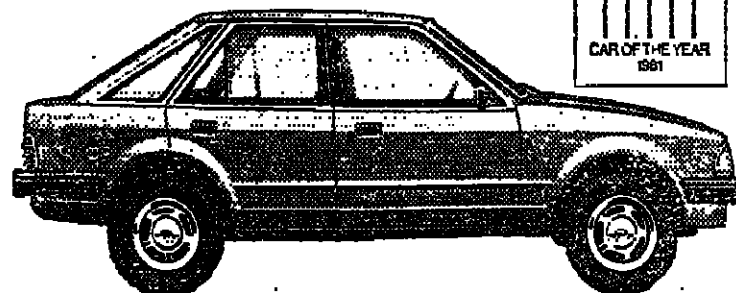
But that was only a beginning.

Today, Ford announce something that's almost unheard of.

Something for nothing.

As you'll see, we're building masses of extra equipment into most of our cars, but we're not adding a penny to our prices. In fact some prices are doing what prices never do these days. They're coming down!

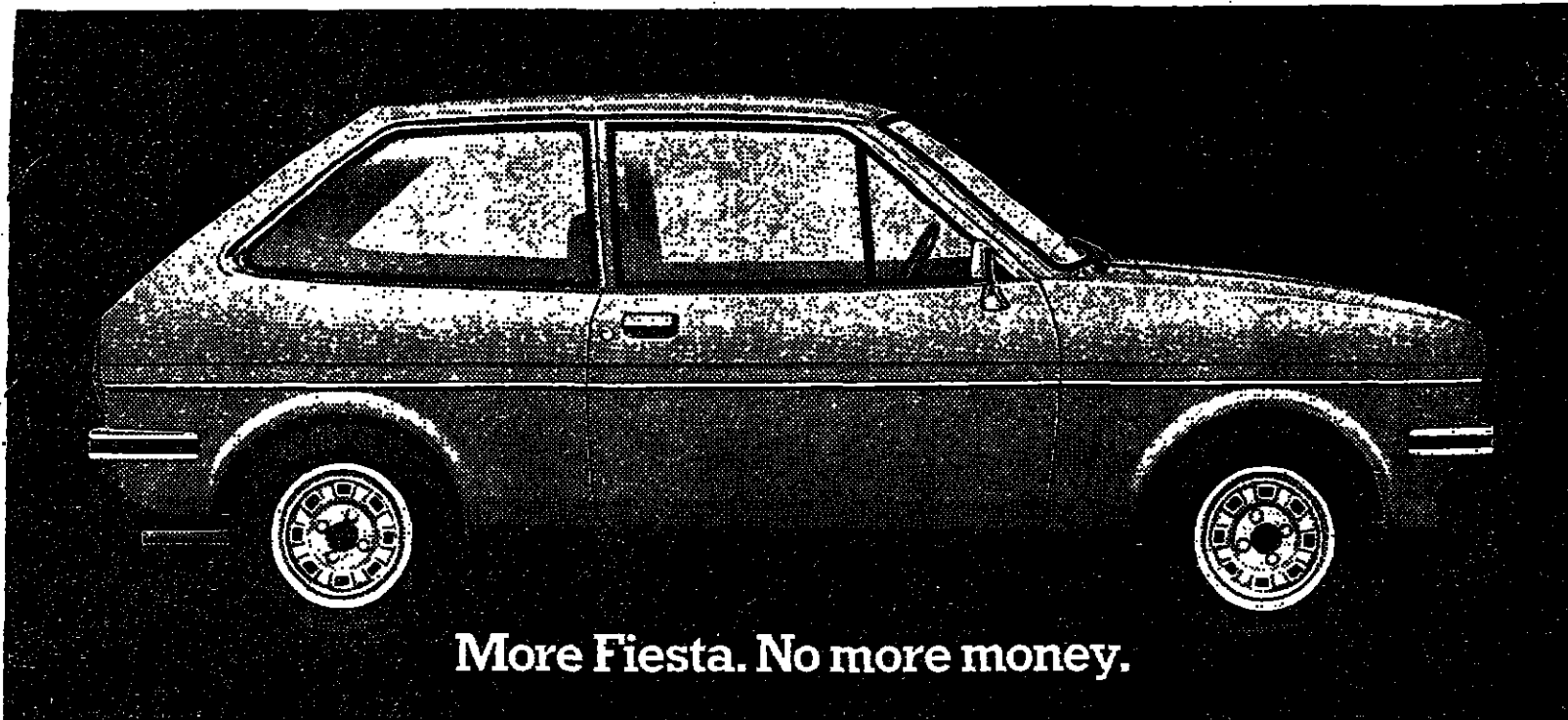
So now you can pick any Ford you like, compare it with its competitors and you'll find that the Ford is better value.



Want to know more? There's plenty over the page...



# More car. No more money.



More Fiesta. No more money.

Here is just some of the new equipment we're building into Fiestas, Cortinas, Capris and Granadas.

As you'll see, when you visit your Ford showroom, each car is getting its fair share.

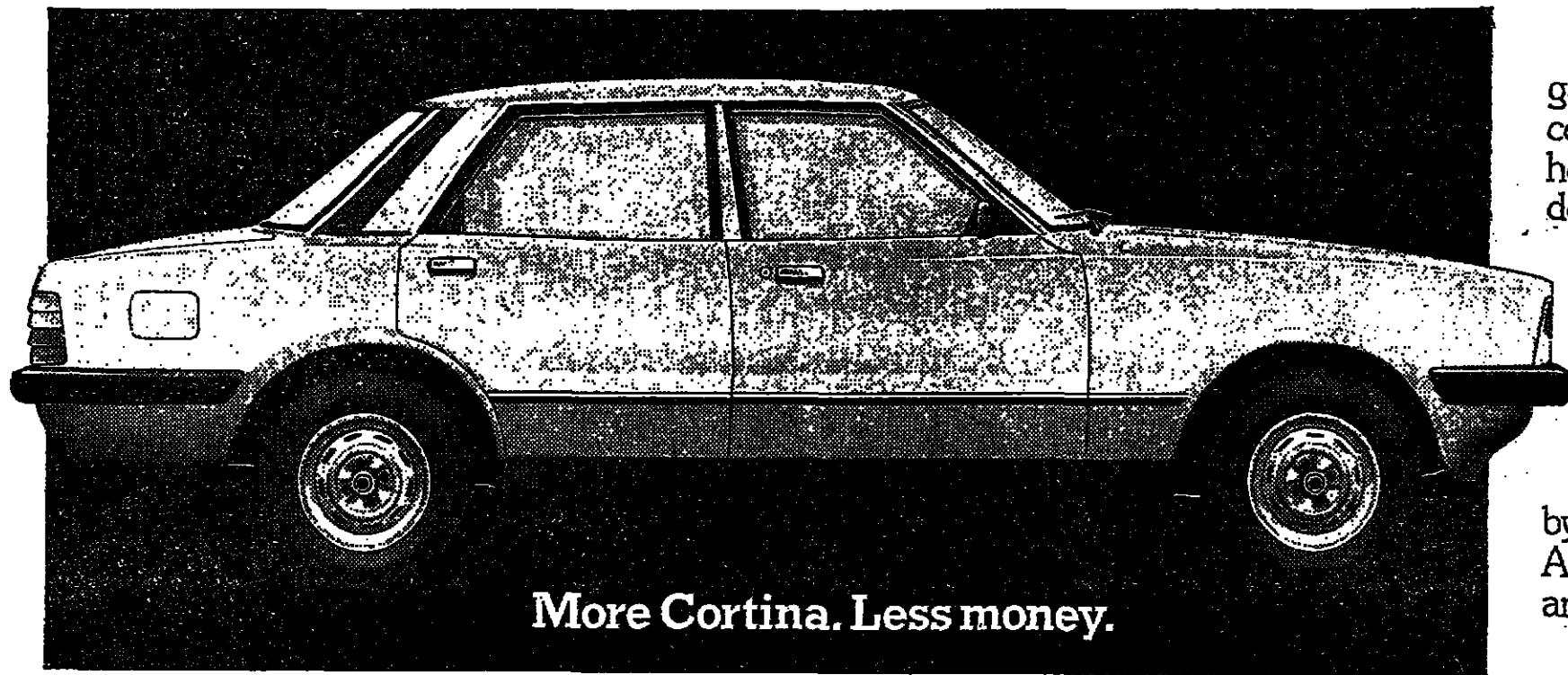
What's more, none of it costs you a penny. Quite the reverse. Some Cortinas and Capris are actually coming down in price.

That nippy little hatchback, the Fiesta, has always been one of the most advanced small cars in Britain. Now it's one of the best equipped too. And what does it cost? Still just £3537\* for the 950cc L model.

Here's what we're adding to the Fiesta L.

- Bodyside moulding ■ Tailgate turn lock
- Head restraints ■ Centre console and clock
- Carpeted rear package tray
- Load compartment carpet
- P21 push button radio

All Fiesta L, GL, S and Ghia models are getting the added value treatment. The Popular costs so little it's amazing value already.

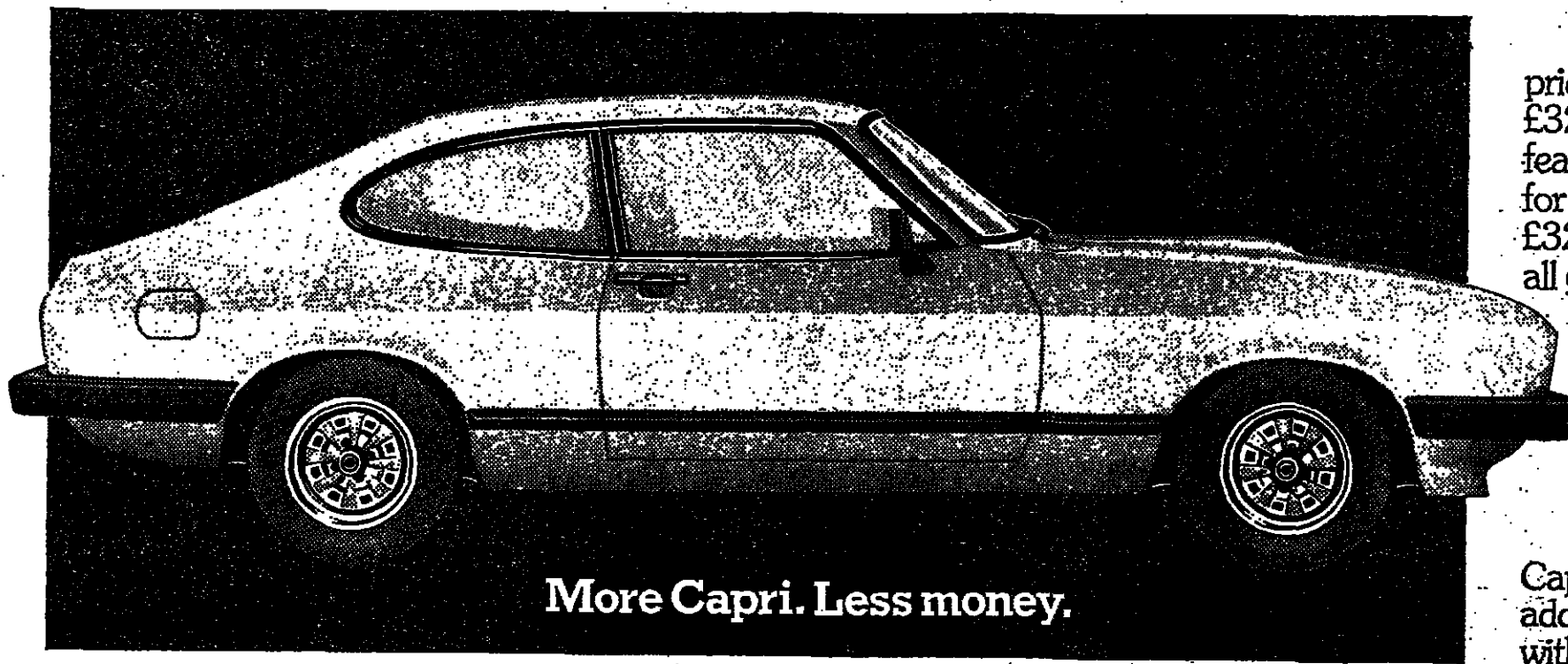


More Cortina. Less money.

Unbelievable isn't it. Cortinas aren't just getting extra equipment. Some are actually coming down in price too. The 1.3 L, shown here, will cost only £4200\* (£4052\* for the two door model). But look what we're building in.

- Passenger door mirror
- Bodyside moulding
- York trim from the GL — a class higher
- Head restraints ■ Rear centre armrest
- Trip recorder ■ Quartz clock

Price reductions? The Cortina L is down by £150. The Cortina saloon is down by £106. And the GL is down by £55. Cortina Estate, L and GL models are reduced by similar amounts.

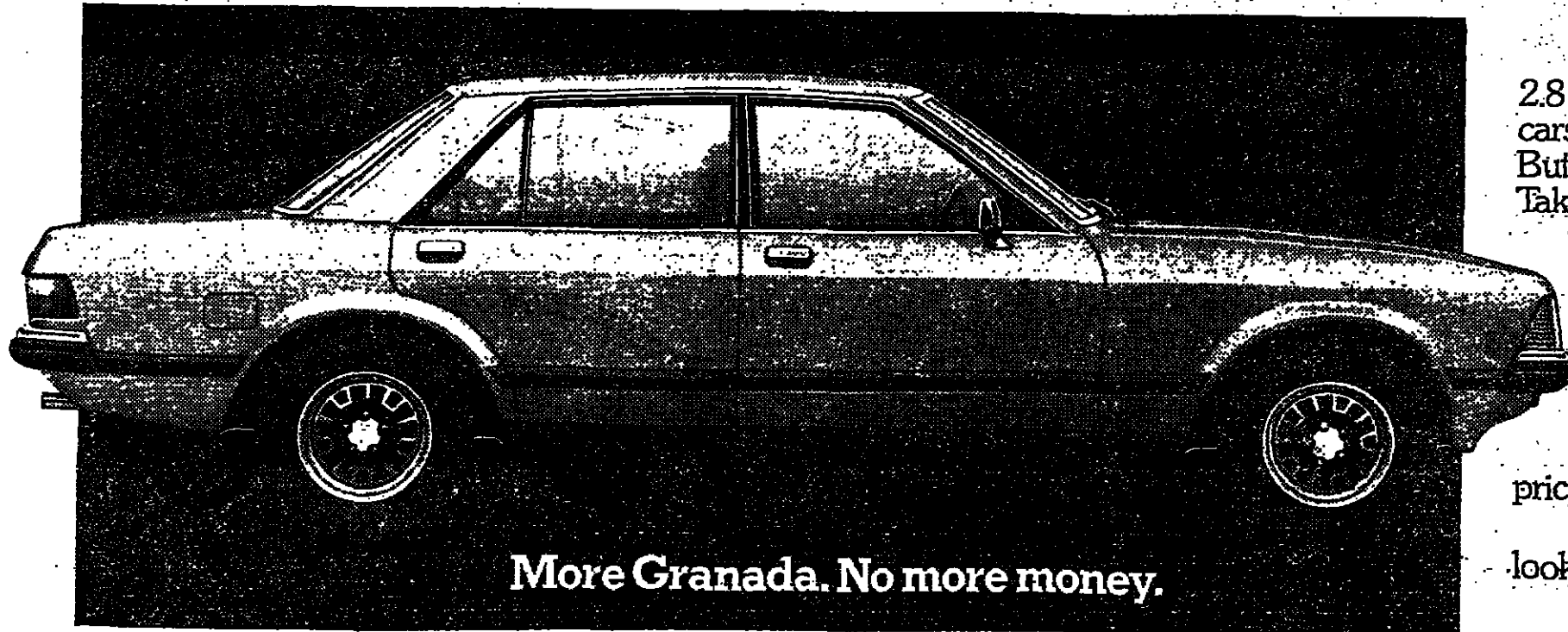


More Capri. Less money.

Yet more good news. We're reducing the price of some Capris as well. The L is down by £32 to £4243\* for the 1.3 litre model. The GL, featured here, is down by £32 to only £4855\* for the 1.6 litre model. And the S is down by £32 to £5783\* for the 2 litre model. But they're all getting improved specifications. Here's what we're adding to the GL.

- P32 radio with VHF
- Opening rear quarter vents
- Front centre armrest and glove box
- Tinted glass ■ New cut pile carpet

Don't forget, there's also an exciting new Capri called the LS (see opposite page). It all adds up to a range of practical sporting cars with more flair than ever.



More Granada. No more money.

The Granada range includes 2.0, 2.3 and 2.8 litre petrol models, big, effortless, long-legged cars that you can drive all day without fatigue. But even they are getting extra equipment. Take the L, for instance. We're adding:

- A remote controlled driver's door mirror
- Front centre armrest and glove box
- Crushed velour upholstery from the GL
- Cigar lighter for rear seat passengers
- Front seat valances

But there are no increases in any Granada prices. The 2 litre L still costs only £6179\*.

Now if you're looking for value for money look at the next page...

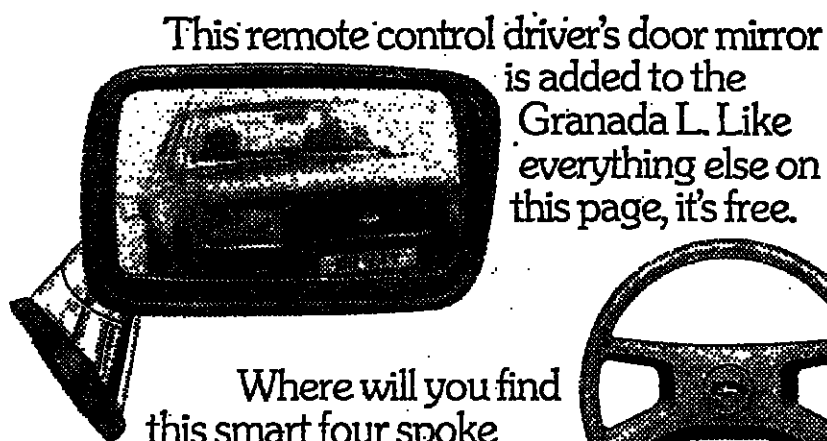


Music while you drive? This P21 radio is going in the Fiesta L. It costs nothing. But think what it's worth.

The Capri GL and S, which already have very good radios, now get even better ones. So if you happen to see any Capri drivers singing along in traffic jams, now you know why.

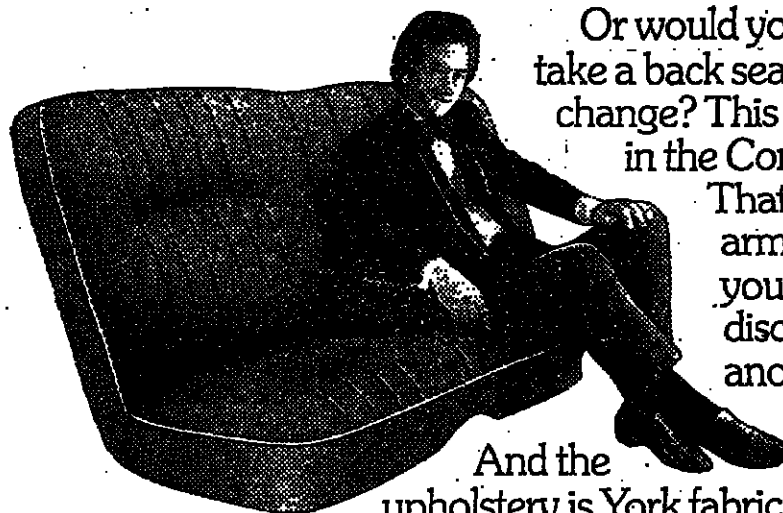
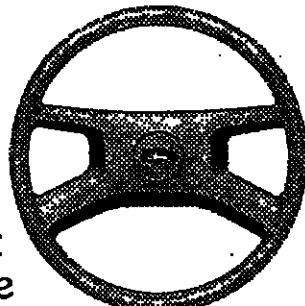
Cortina Ghia drivers will be even happier. They get power aerials.

That quartz clock ticking away under the radio is another 'gift' Fiesta L's, Cortina L's and Capri L's all get them.



This remote control driver's door mirror is added to the Granada L. Like everything else on this page, it's free.

Where will you find this smart four spoke wheel where you wouldn't have found one before? In the Fiesta GL. Get your hands on one soon.



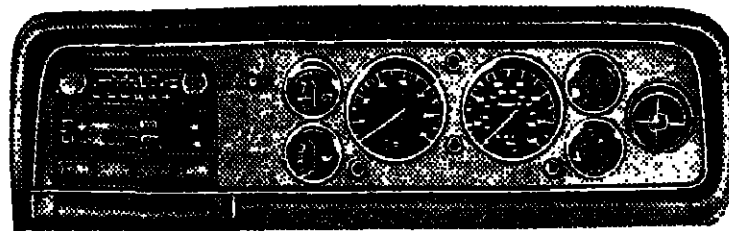
Or would you rather take a back seat for a change? This one is in the Cortina L. That centre armrest you've just discovered is another free feature.

And the upholstery is York fabric from the GL - a class above. Smart isn't it?

So are these alloy wheels. They're now standard on the Fiesta Ghia. It also gets a passenger door mirror, cut pile carpet and a radio cassette to name some of the new features.

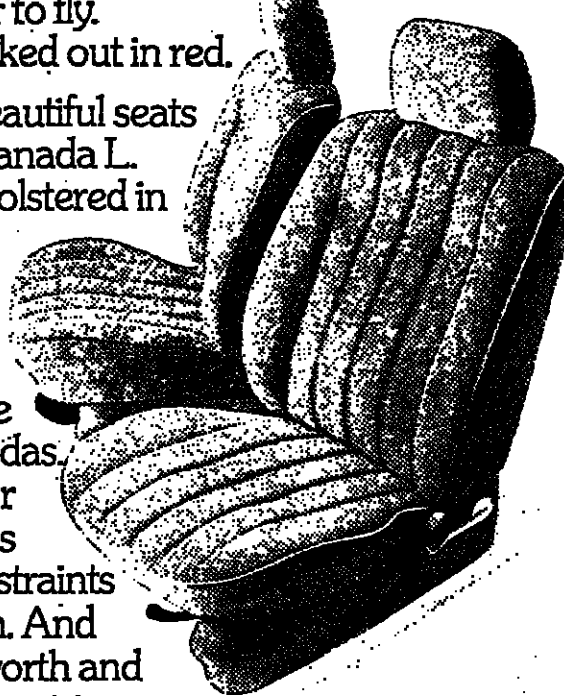


Are you a quick change artist? With this sports gear knob, and a slick Ford gearbox you soon will be. The knob is a nice little touch we've added to the Cortina Ghia. The new Capri LS also has one.



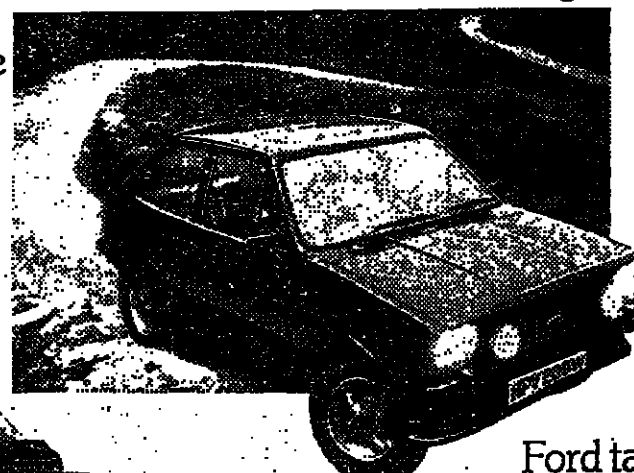
This instrument panel belongs in the new Capri LS, featured below. It looks like something out of Concorde, but it's easier to fly. Dials are picked out in red.

These beautiful seats go in the Granada L. They're upholstered in luxurious crushed velour. Not that we've forgotten the other Granadas. The Ghia, for instance, gets rear head restraints in the saloon. And new Chatsworth and crushed velour trim.



Now here's something you'd never expect to get for nothing. A sun-roof. But nothing is what it costs when you buy a Cortina Ghia saloon. Well, we could all do with a little solar energy these days couldn't we?

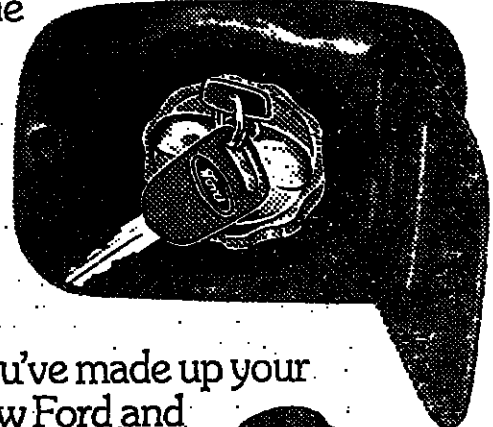
Which brings us to a highly energetic Fiesta - the one that shortens straights and straightens bends. The Supersport is now a full fledged member of the Fiesta family. Price? Just £4634\*. Exhilarating.



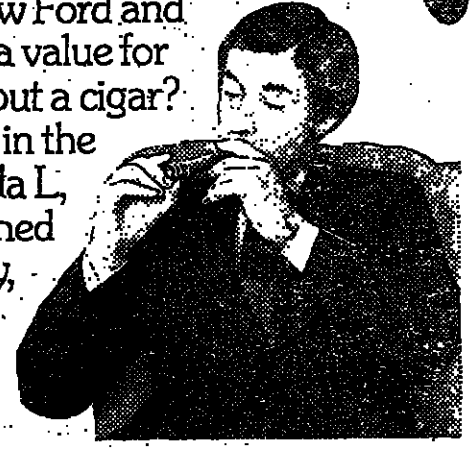
Like looking through glass darkly? Capri GL and S models get tinted windows. So does the GL Cortina.



We're handing out locking petrol caps as if petrol was a vanishing commodity. The Fiesta Ghia gets one and the Cortina Ghia. Actually, the best thing about them is that they're almost impossible to leave behind at filling stations.



Now that you've made up your mind to buy a new Ford and get so much extra value for nothing, how about a cigar? If you're relaxing in the back of a Granada L, with its new crushed velour upholstery, the cigar lighter is on us.



If you haven't quite decided yet read on, and we'll tell you how well we'll look after you once you own one of our cars.



Our after sales service begins before you even take delivery of the car, with a quality controlled, pre-delivery inspection. From then on, if you have your car serviced by a Ford Dealer, it will be looked after by Ford trained technicians.

You get a free service after 1500 miles and you are also entitled to two free diagnostic checks later on.

Your dealer can nearly always tell you exactly how much a repair will cost before you have the work done. Not only that, but, thanks to a computerised system, many dealers can give you even quicker estimates.

And every repair is backed up by a written certificate from the dealer.

Most dealers also operate a special pre-booking system so that you're not kept hanging about.

## EXTRA COVER

Extra Cover is just one more way Ford takes care of its customers. It's an optional warranty on major mechanical parts that takes over when your first 12 month warranty expires. One year extra costs £48 - two years costs £96 (plus VAT).

### Prices

\*All car prices quoted in this advertisement are maximum prices as at 21st January 1981 and include front seatbelts, Car Tax and VAT. But delivery and number plates cost extra. For other prices please ask your dealer. He'll be happy to help.



This is the brand new Capri LS. It is based on the added value Capri L together with: sports wheels, 185 tyres, special side stripes, tailgate spoiler, seats and trim from the previous S model, extra instruments, sports gear knob, and S suspension. Price? Just £4667\*. Worth a lot more wouldn't you say?

**Ford gives you more.**





## US AND IRAN

# Freed hostages begin period of seclusion at Air Force hospital

From Patricia Clough Wiesbaden, Jan 21

The 52 American hostages released from Tehran, apparently well and in good spirits, rested today in the seclusion of the United States Air Force hospital here after their night-long journey to freedom.

The two white Nightingales—United States Air Force hospital jets—which brought them from Algiers on the last leg of their flight landed at Rhein-Main air base at 6.44 am and 6.46 am.

The doors opened and within moments television networks were broadcasting pictures via satellite to the anxious families and the American nation showing all the hostages, safe and in good condition after their 144-month ordeal.

Wearing bulky Air Force anoraks against the crisp -6°C weather, the Americans emerged, many of them smiling and waving happily. One made a victory sign to the crowds, but a few of the older ones looked weary and a little pale in the bright floodlights as they crossed to their buses.

A tide of emotion—joy, relief, patriotism and sentimentality—rose to meet them from the waiting American Servicemen and their families, the press and American officials on the tarmac.

Tears streamed down the faces of some of the government and military officials led by Mr Cyrus Vance, the former Secretary of State, who welcomed them at the steps of the aircraft. A crowd of about 2,000, many of whom had waited all night in the cold, cheered ecstatically, waved banners and sang what sounded like "America the Beautiful".

Church bells rang out in Wiesbaden as the two blue buses drove the former hostages to the hospital, accompanied by German and American police cars with flashing lights and press and security helicopters.

Their progress was slowed by jams caused by the rush hour combined with traffic restrictions by police after reports of bomb threats against the hostages.

Dawn was breaking as the 500-strong crowd at the hospital—or "Freedom Hotel" as it was called on a sheet hanging from the windows—broke into cheers at the sight of the buses. Once inside the hospital, they were met by a doctor, a nurse, a chaplain and a priest, and the 24 toll-free telephones put in for them to talk to their families at home. Then the press was told, most of them went to bed.

Later some were reported to have told officials that they had kept diaries of their captivity and a few wanted to publish them as books. A technician on board one of the aircraft said a hostage told him they had learnt only by accident of the release of Mr Richard Queen, who was ill. They had been given a magazine with articles about themselves clipped out, but their captors had overlooked a reference in the index to his release. The "Little America" in Germany, the archipelago of United States military bases and communities, went overboard to make the hostages feel at home. Their standard two-bed and four-bed hospital

rooms had been brightened with children's posters and flowers, well-wishers had sent telegrams, servicemen's wives had baked cakes, and an American school brass band struck up on their arrival "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree".

Yellow ribbons were everywhere—tied to the trees outside the hospital, hung over their doors, and even tied round the hostages' sleeves.

In the evening former President Carter arrived to welcome the hostages as the personal envoy of President Reagan. Crowds at the air base waving placards saying "Love you, Mr Carter" and "Proud of Jimmy" gave him a rapturous welcome.

The ex-President and Mr Walter Mondale (his former Vice-President and Secretary of State) were met by Herr Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor. But the Chancellor did not accompany them to the hospital for their hour-long private meeting with the hostages.

The hostages are expected to stay in the hospital for several days for extensive medical and psychological examinations, counselling, and questioning on their experience. A special team of government and military medical staff sent to look after them includes experts on the psychological effects of prolonged captivity and others who can detect signs of brainwashing. The team is believed to have been familiarized with the life history and character of each hostage.

Although Mr Jack Cannon, deputy State Department spokesman, said the hostages were free men, it was clear they had been strongly recommended to undergo several days of psychological deconditioning away from their families, the press and the public before returning home. Two of them who headed straight for the crowds at the air base were grabbed by a security man and pointed firmly in the direction of the buses.

The press had been denied all access to them and their families have been discouraged from travelling over to meet them. Nevertheless Miss Alyse Keough of Waltham, Massachusetts, came over to meet her father, Mr William Keough, superintendent of the American Consulate in Tehran. Sir Donald Robman of the Army Medical Corps was also reunited with his wife, Anna, who has been living in Frankfurt.

Other hostages' families were rumoured to have come to Germany quietly on exclusive contracts with American newspapers or networks. The period of seclusion was recommended for the hostages' health and well-being, Mr Cannon said, but it has been suggested that another reason may have been warnings by psychiatrists that among the reactions to their captivity may be hostility towards the American authorities and sympathy for their captives. It is believed that the hostages will be advised against expressing opinions in public before getting their bearings again.

The hostages, Mr Cannon said, had not been together in one group at any time during their captivity. The gun and spun the chamber, then put the barrel up to my head and then he pulled the trigger. There was a click. I thought I was going to die. They wanted information out of me. I was secretary to the chargé d'affaires and I guess they thought I knew something. "He was dissatisfied with my replies. There was another click and then he stopped." Like all the hostages released early, Miss Montagne had not revealed anything publicly about her capture until yesterday, when the others were safely out of Iran.

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# Champagne and tears as millions celebrate

From Michael Leapman New York, Jan 21

The Empire State Building was floodlit patriotically in red, white and blue and a neon sign in Times Square, the heart of Broadway, flashed: "They're free." The same message was emblazoned on a hoarding at a building site on Madison Avenue, where workmen have kept count of the days the hostages were in captivity.

The jubilation in New York mirrored the national joy last night when millions attended parades, church services and spontaneously celebrated the release of the 52 instant heroes from their Iranian ordeal.

In Washington, the national Christmas tree, darkened for the last two years, was lit a month late. "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" were sung time and again.

The most intense and emotional celebrations took place in towns and communities where the families of the 52 lived. Residents had offered generous emotional support to the victims' relatives and joined in the relief as though their own families were involved.

Last night the families sat round their television sets watching the live broadcasts by satellite from Algiers, Frankfurt and Wiesbaden and many were themselves appearing on television.

The networks, using the split screen technique, showed the families' reaction to the long-awaited first glimpse of their relatives: the former hostages, already inelegantly dubbed "returnees", and the families could be seen simultaneously. Champagne and tears flowed without restraint.

For the second day, normal television programmes were cast aside for the live bulletins by satellite.

In the heart of prime time, there was a 90-minute broadcast from Algiers. The fact that for nearly an hour viewers saw only a darkened airport pierced by sleet and indefinable lights scarcely detracted from the drama.

A few of the families have expressed disappointment at not being allowed to go to Wiesbaden to greet their husbands and sons. For the most part, though, they have accepted the advice of the State Department that the former hostages should have a few days to recover before being exposed to the emotional strain of reunion.

There is a huge parade in the inaugural balls, fireworks explode behind the monuments to past kings (Lincoln, Washington), there are balls and receptions and a junior military officer carefully explains to the new monarch how he can blow up the world.

Mr Ronald Reagan wore a morning suit and made everyone else wear one, too, including poor Mr Carter who had worn less elegant clothing at his own inaugural. He drove from Capitol to White House (Mr Carter had walked) and his wife wore a scarlet suit and hat of the sort that glows in the dark.

It was white tie and tails for the men and new dresses for the women at the balls last night, \$100 (about £41) a head and a cash bar.

Amazing numbers of people know the Reagans intimately (it must be true, they all say it). "I just want to get

a glimpse of Nancy's dress", they say. From a distance it seemed to be white and glittering, off one shoulder, and \$7,000. Those who missed it can see it in the Smithsonian in a few days.

Those who missed going to the inaugural balls professed not to care, those who went professed to have found them tacky and boring. Everyone loved the fireworks and the parade.

Here are the differences between a British and an American coronation procession. It rained on the last one in London; it was sunny here. Americans are incorrigibly civilian; the parade had little of a military cast and the troops had great trouble staying in step when they tried.

There were floats representing all the states in the Union (big cheers for California) with all the presiding girls aboard who were conspicuously missing at the inaugural balls later. There were high school bands and trotting horses and people dressed like Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett.

The Reagans went to all eight inaugural balls.



Mr Jimmy Carter at Wiesbaden with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor.



Decent haircut at last for Mr Bruce Laingen in the hospital barber's shop.

# The republic trundles out its deposed king

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Jan 21

This is a republic and every four years it holds a coronation. The old king is trundled out to witness the event, silent and disregarded for the first time since his own apothecary.

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# Trade sanctions are lifted by Britain

By Peter Hill Industrial Editor

Sanctions on trade with Iran, first imposed by the British Government last May, were lifted with effect from midnight last night after the release of the American hostages. Other EEC countries and members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development are taking similar steps.

But the lifting of the trade sanctions, announced by the Department of Trade, will not affect the sale of strategic goods or arms which will remain subject to export licensing control. This means that for the time being the 20,000-ton Iranian naval supply vessel, Kharg, built by British Shipbuilders and handed over last April will remain on Tyne, ready to be shipped to Iran.

The sanctions applied to negotiation of new contracts, existing contracts being unaffected. In fact, total British exports to Iran last year rose to £395m compared with £232m the previous year. Imports fell to £108m compared with £243m the previous year, reflecting the effects of the Iranian revolution on oil production.

Last year's British exports to Iran reflected particularly high levels of shipments in February and April at £45m and £54m respectively and boosted by a further £42m in August.

A number of British companies which had established close trading relations with Iran have pulled out and several have developed business links with Iraq. The building up of Britain's export business with Iran will be determined by the extent to which Iran decides to spend its money in the West and when normal diplomatic relations are restored.

Among the main casualties of the trade sanctions has been the Export Credits Guarantee Department. Claims met by it on the losses of British companies active in Iran now exceed £100m and unless there is a sharp improvement in trade, claims for a similar sum could well be lodged.

This exposure was among the factors which prompted the department to increase its premiums on all British exports last month.

Parliamentary report, page 11

# London banks given £830m deposit to avoid havoc

By Roman Eisenstein Banking Correspondent

The two senior Bank of England officials who had been helping with negotiations for the release of the American hostages returned from Algiers yesterday with a £830m deposit to the Bank of England. Initially the money was transferred to an Algerian account and, after the release of the hostages, to the specially opened Iranian account.

But transfers of such magnitude would have temporarily at least forced American banks to bid for new deposits and possibly drive up rates of interest while they were doing so. To avoid monetary havoc, the Bank of England is understood to have deposited more than £2,000m (more than £833m) with the British banks.

They in turn, as prearranged, deposited the money back into American banks. This recycling process would have taken place in any case but some days could have elapsed before the full circle was complete.

Under the complex financial arrangements between the Iranians and the Americans, United States banks were to release several thousand million dollars to a special account opened at the Bank of England. Initially the money was transferred to an Algerian account and, after the release of the hostages, to the specially opened Iranian account.

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# Mr Carter's promise to Algerians echoed

From Ian Murray Algiers, Jan 21

It was with free champagne and broad smiles that the United States Embassy officials in Algiers told the press that 727 had been escorted out of Iranian airspace by a Phantom jet.

There had been no official confirmation until that moment and months of disappointment and shattered hopes had obviously trained American officials to expect nothing and to say even less. Even when it was known the aircraft had left Tehran airport, the embassy press officer would only say he was waiting for news from the World Service of the BBC.

When the all clear was given, the champagne came out and it was time to shake hands and laugh with the journalists and camera crews, some of whom had been waiting around for up to two months.

The relief was evident on the Algerian side as well, for there had been increasing concern that Algeria would suffer if things went wrong. Failure in its delicate task of go-between might even win it international unpopularity.

It was Algeria's Islamic culture and its French colonial history which fitted it for the seemingly impossible job of acting as trusted confidant both to the profoundly suspicious Iranian Government and to the United States and Washington which represented a system despised by the Iranians.

Mr Muhammad Benyahia, the Algerian Foreign Minister, whose role was capital in all the negotiations, was chosen by his Government to meet the hostages when they landed at Houari Boumedienne airport early today.

As they crowded into the VIP lounge blinking in the harsh television lights, Mr Benyahia gave them the first of the many speeches of welcome they will hear in the days to come.

The request by the Iranians to act for them, he said, "appeared to be an act of confidence in the Algerian people, its revolution and its rulers, and a witness of the high qualities of esteem and the sentiments of fraternity which exist between the Algerian people and the Iranian people."

"We accepted this responsibility with the sharp awareness that it was a heavy one, but with the feeling that we must accomplish a duty dictated to us by the exercise of our international obligations."

The minister then handed over the freed hostages to Mr Warren Christopher, now the former United States Deputy Secretary of State, whose determination as the chief American negotiator here had played a part in securing their release.

Mr Christopher again thanked Algeria warmly for all it had done and his words echoed the more formal message sent by Mr Carter to President Chadli Bendjedid. This spoke of the "immense debt of gratitude" owed by the American people to Algeria.

No threat to international relations, no quarrel between nations in recent years had been so difficult to resolve as this one, the former President said. "The United States will never forget."

The hostages themselves would clearly never forget their arrival and welcome in Algeria, listening to speeches and sipping orange juice were perhaps a necessary remedy in their own world after 444 days of detention.

It was an emotive night too, for the small crowd of Algerians who gathered at the airport to cheer and with a strand of yellow ribbon—that traditional token gift to the returning soldier.

The stopover showed Algerians the fruits of their diplomatic labours. The television service broadcast the arrival live and its pictures were syndicated throughout the world—around the world, as the national newspaper *El Moudjahid* put it today.

The Algerian Press Service also had a world scoop in that their man was the only journalist allowed to fly on board the 727 from Tehran with the hostages.

He reported that the happiness of all of them shone through as they boarded the aircraft. "It is a very good evening," one had said shaking him by the hand. "Thanks," said the two women hostages had told him with tears in her eyes.

Mr Bruce Laingen, the American Chargé d'Affaires, who was the senior diplomat among the hostages, hugged Mr Rada Mlek the Algerian Representative to the United States, and thanked him.

The hostages were then taken back through the rain to the waiting C9 Nightingales of the United States Air Force, with a red cross painted on their tails to show that they were equipped as flying hospital wards.

A top-level Iranian delegation, led by Mr Moussa Khatami, the Minister of Transport and Communications, arrived in Algiers yesterday to discuss the problems of transport with Mr Salah Goudjil, his Algerian counterpart.

Mr Goudjil told him: "Like the brothers that we are we want our cooperation to be strong and it will be in our mutual interest."

The Algerian Government will clearly expect that Mr Carter's promise that the United States will never forget its debt to Algeria will be put into a more tangible form by President Reagan.

# 'Mutual paranoia' almost wrecked the negotiations

Frankfurt, Jan 21—Negotiations to free the American hostages almost collapsed because of "mutual political paranoia" but eventually succeeded because Iran found the hostages a severe political and economic liability, senior Carter Administration officials said today.

The ultimate release of the hostages was delayed for weeks and even months because Iran was distracted by its war with Iraq and that "showed the hostages a cliff-hanging negotiation so complex that Mr Hamilton Jordan, the former White House Chief of Staff, said it was 'like Willy Wonka's pool (billiards) shot where you had to have 10 balls going into the pocket all at once for it to work'."

The officials who asked not to be identified made their comments while accompanying former President Carter to West Germany to welcome the freed Americans.

The officials said the final cementing of the hostage deal involved two days of open telephone lines around the world, connecting 12 banks, law firms, and the Governments of Iran, Algeria, the United States and several other countries.

The low point in the 14-month negotiations came on Monday and early Tuesday when Iran delayed for hours sending a coded Telex message to put in motion the transfer of some of its frozen assets.

"First there was silence," one official said. "And then, as one of the lawyers said, the Telex burped." The first messages contained typographical errors, and the banks hesitated to act.

Then, "with the help of the Secretary of the Treasury, they took their courage in their hands, and they agreed to go ahead," he said.

Although Iran was once interested in the American military, a separate page ordered by the deposed Shah, one of the officials said, the prospect of reestablishing a military relationship with the United States became an "anathema" in Iran, causing the revolutionary Government to drop the whole subject.

"In the end, they gave up almost everything they had originally demanded."

Mr Carter's decision to freeze the Iranian assets in America "really worked," the official said. The last move came when the United States threatened to destroy the negotiations were attributed by the officials to "paranoia".

The "Islamic Republic," the newspaper of the dominating Iranian Republican Party, also hailed the end of the hostage crisis in a leading article entitled: "US could not do a damn thing."

The "Islamic Republic" paper criticised "liberals" like President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Mr Sadeg Ghotbzadeh, the former Foreign Minister, for their opposition to the hostage-taking. "The first and most valuable result of continuing the spy hostages issues was that... finally the religious people overcame the liberals."

Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, head of the Supreme Court, today refuted suggestions that the end of the hostage issue might mark the beginning of new relations with America. "We do not see any reason for beginning new diplomatic relations," he said.

# Iran captors forced woman to play Russian roulette

From Michael Leapman New York, Jan 21

One of the 13 hostages freed from Iran soon after being captured in 1979 revealed for the first time yesterday that her captors made her play Russian roulette during her 17 days of captivity.

Miss Elizabeth Montagne, a secretary with the State Department, said the incident happened two days after the capture of the United States embassy. She was in a room by herself. "I knew that something terrible was about to happen," she said. "My hands were tied behind me very tightly."

"Then, one of the Iranians opened up the chambers of the gun and showed me the bullets. They were all empty and then he put one bullet inside. He closed

the gun and spun the chamber, then put the barrel up to my head and then he pulled the trigger. There was a click. I thought I was going to die. They wanted information out of me. I was secretary to the chargé d'affaires and I guess they thought I knew something.

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Miss Allison Bunster: A call from Wiesbaden.

# Freed American contacts English fiancée

Staff sergeant Joe Subic, one of the Americans freed from Tehran, has telephoned Miss Allison Bunster, his English fiancée, from hospital in Wiesbaden. The couple, who became engaged by letter during Mr Subic's captivity, talked for an hour yesterday. Miss Bunster, being at the Foreign Office in London where she works as a secretary.

Later, her mother, Mrs Shirley Bunster, said at her home in Southampton: "She tells me Joe is fine although he says he has had a tremendous ordeal and it will take him some time to adjust to the fact that he's free."

Miss Bunster said her daughter planned to fly to Washington as soon as her fiancée arrived there from Germany.

# Reagan plea to ministers on new employees

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Jan 21

President Reagan began his first full day in office with a Cabinet meeting at the White House at which he urged the assembled ministers to obey his order to hire no new employees. The order was his first act as President yesterday and applies to all branches of the Government except the armed forces.

The Senate has started confirming Ministers in office and will probably confirm all of them today except Mr Ray Donovan, the Secretary of the Labor Department. He is a building contractor from New Jersey and allegations that his firm had dealings with the mafia are being examined.

The first Minister voted into office was Mr Casper Weinberger, approved by 98 to two. The two were Mr Jesse Helms and John East, the Republican Senators from North Carolina. Mr Helms is probably the most influential of the new breed of extreme conservatives in Congress and his disapproval of Mr Weinberger is a sign of things to come.

The far right has not been pleased by Mr Reagan's choice of Cabinet and lesser officials. They wanted someone much more aggressively anti-Russian for Defence, such as Senator John Tower, or perhaps Senator Helms.

Mr Reagan will preside at the swearing in of his Cabinet and has already sworn in members



مكذبا عن الأصل

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The overwhelming majority of people who have voted 'Yes' to both questions in the opinion poll, have given as their reasons that they are the most convenient times for them to shop.

A copy of an advertisement publicising the results so far is enclosed.

Dickie Dirts operates two cut price retail clothing outlets which are open seven days a week 9 a.m.-11 p.m., has been in open breach of the law for the last three years, and has often been prosecuted. We operate a rotating shift system so that staff do not have to work more than 37½ hours per week.

I am writing to you and all the other Members of the House as I would be most interested to hear what you have to say on the subject and whether you have any plans to amend the current shop act regulations.

## N.Wright, Dickie Dirts

**Dickie Dirts, 396-400 North End Road, Fulham Broadway, London SW6, Tel: 01-381 3169. 58 Westbourne Grove, London W2, Tel: 01-229 1466. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.**



## OVERSEAS

# Junta begins to loosen reins of political control in Argentina

By Peter Strafford

After nearly five years of repressive rule by the military regime in Argentina, the first signs have begun to appear of an easing of the political atmosphere. The Government retains tight control, but it has apparently decided to allow a certain liberalization.

The political parties have become more active over the past year and their activities are more fully reported, even when they are critical of Government policies. Some of the main Buenos Aires newspapers are themselves much bolder in their criticisms.

Semi-official kidnappings and disappearances still take place, and the authorities dispersed a peaceful protest march in Buenos Aires in December by relatives of those who had disappeared in this way in the past. But the disappearances are far fewer than they were.

The question, therefore, is how far the military will allow this process to go. They have always said that their eventual aim was to return the country to democracy, but they have not shown any hurry to do so and clearly intend to retain control for a long time.

In March, however, there will be a change of government when General Roberto Viola takes over as President from General Videla; and there is some expectation that he will introduce some changes. He is said to believe that he has a mandate for change.

He will not be a free agent, since he will be subordinate to the three-man military junta, consisting of the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force. But he has a reputation as a skilled practitioner of military politics, and the expectation is that he can have considerable influence if he chooses to use it.

So far he has been very general in his public statements. But he has made a deliberate attempt to make himself better known by his appearances on television.

The Argentine armed forces took over power in 1976 at a time of growing chaos, as the government of President María Estela Perón was losing control. There were powerful guerrilla movements carrying out a terrorist campaign, and the economy was on the point of collapse.

Since then the military Government's policies have succeeded in stabilizing the economy. But its policy of wholesale repression, by which it used semi-official groups to

carry out illegal abductions, and large numbers of innocent people were killed, has drawn worldwide condemnation, most recently from a human rights commission sent by the Organization of American States.

Today the terrorist threat has been virtually eliminated. But the armed forces have still to face up to the consequences of their counter-terrorist campaign, by providing security for thousands of the thousands who disappeared or by releasing or trying the more than 1,500 still held in prison without being charged.

It is ironic that at a time when there is an improvement in the human rights situation it should be becoming more of a public issue. This is partly because of the greater freedom of the press to discuss the subject, and partly because of the award of the Nobel Prize to Senator Pérez Esquivel.

The Argentine ambassador in Oslo ostentatiously stayed away from the ceremony when Señor Pérez received the prize. This was criticized in the press and the movements of Señor Pérez, previously almost entirely unknown, are now reported.

For the moment there is no great pressure for the holding of elections soon, and no prospect that they will be called. The next steps in the slow process of returning power to civilians are likely to be the appointment of civilians as provincial governors and, possibly, the holding of municipal elections.

The two main parties, now limbering up, are the Peronists and the Radicals. The Peronists are badly split but it is thought that if they could unite, they would still win any election. Many Argentines still look back on the years of Peronist rule as a golden age.

The Government has tried to restrict the power of the trade unions, one of the main pillars of the Peronist regime, by recent legislation which requires them to be non-political, bans the creation of a national confederation, and deprives them of their social welfare funds.

But the unions remain powerful despite being politically divided. There have been underground meetings of the old General Confederation of Labour (CGT).

The military would certainly not hand over power to the Peronists, whom they regard as being responsible for many of Argentina's troubles.

# Mr Nott is accused by Russia of militarism

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Jan 21

The Russians today sharply attacked Mr John Nott, the new Secretary of Defence, saying that he had taken up his post with a call to continue the arms race, ardently trying to demonstrate his 100 per cent support for the Conservatives' militarist doctrines.

A *Pravda* commentator said the British Government, eagerly following orders from across the Atlantic, was obstinately dragging the country along a dangerous path. The new head of the defence establishment did not hide the government's desire to increase its military capabilities in every way and perfect the technology and production of deadly weapons.

The newspaper said this "aggressive, unrealistic course" in international affairs was in no way increased by Britain's authority. Instead, it damaged détente and undermined international trust. But the British Government deliberately refused to withdraw from its short-sighted position. A recent defence budget had been approved at a time when the country's economy was in a grievous state and could have done with the billions of pounds allotted to defence.

In their efforts to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union and its allies, the newspaper went on, the Conservatives were ready to make any sacrifice, to buy new weapons and to allow the stationing of American nuclear missiles in East Angles.

Mr Margaret Thatcher's Government, putting its faith in the arms race, took no notice of the opinion of the peace-loving public in the country, *Pravda* maintained, especially the inhabitants of those areas where it was planned to station the American rockets.

"Trying to justify their actions the Tories again and again resort to the 'Soviet threat'. John Nott was not original: in order to support his militarist statements, he also approved this false argument."

Leading article, page 15

# Passport for bishop

Johannesburg, Jan 21

Bishop Desmond Tutu, Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches, has had his passport returned to him by the Government. His passport was confiscated last March.

# Turks seize another journalist

Istanbul, Jan 21—Istanbul authorities have detained a third member of the staff of Turkey's mass-circulation newspaper *Hürriyet* (freedom), spokesman for the paper said today.

He said that Mr Tayyunture, a senior editorial executive, was detained yesterday following a prolonged investigation into the publication of a story by the paper nearly two weeks ago about plans to introduce price increases in nationalized industries.

The paper's managing director and news editor are already in custody and at least four other journalists have been questioned.

Turkey's military junta, which seized power in 1980, has not introduced formal press censorship, but editors have imposed self-censorship after frequent warnings from the Government.

Although several smaller right and left-wing papers were closed down after the coup, the big dailies have published continuously except for the left-leaning *Cumhuriyet*. It was closed down for 10 days in November and its distribution suspended for five days this month in the southern city of Adana—Reuters.

# Suzuki tour improves relations with Asean

From David Watts

Bangkok, Jan 21

The South-East Asian tour of Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, has clearly shown that Tokyo supports the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in its opposition to the Vietnamese over Kampuchea.

During his tour, Mr Suzuki, who returned to Japan yesterday, reflected this country's more aggressive style on foreign policy.

In recent years the Japanese have tried to keep the lines open to Hanoi and not purely because of the short-term profits to be made in the reconstruction of Vietnam. Until the Suzuki tour, Japan's policy on Vietnam was to prevent any settlement which would depend on the Soviet Union.

But Mr Suzuki's call to Vietnam for an immediate response to the international community's demands for a ceasefire in Kampuchea was an interesting reflection of Japan's new, more assertive international diplomatic style.

"If you analyse his speech (in Bangkok), you see that Suzuki was making a very strong commitment to Asean on Japan's terms," one western diplomat said.

"The Japanese perhaps built up his final speech too much in advance so that it raised unrealistic expectations and they have no-one to blame but themselves for that. But they have now made their choice—they've cut the Vietnamese loose."

Asean nations seem well pleased with the results that the tour has produced in the international political level.

As Mr Suzuki said in Bangkok, the relationship between Japan and Asean has reached a new level of maturity. That is not to say that there is always either warmth or trust on certain issues in certain countries, but Tokyo and the five Asean capitals (Manila, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Bangkok) are learning to live with each other.

Not all was sweetness and light, however. In Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, Japan failed to get new commitments for oil supplies in Jakarta because of continuing concern about Tokyo's new friendship with Peking.

Paradoxically economic questions were the least concern in the only two Asean countries—Singapore and Thailand—which have trade deficits with Japan. With Singapore, the imbalance is largely a technical one.

# MPs to report on garrison in Hongkong

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, Jan 21

Twelve British politicians—five Conservative and five Labour MPs and two peers—will arrive in Hongkong tomorrow to investigate the operations and living conditions of the Army, Navy and Air Force garrison in Hongkong.

Organized by the Ministry of Defence, it will be the largest political mission to visit Hongkong in recent years. Most are members of the Hongkong all-party group at Westminster.

The Conservatives are Mr Anthony Bucker (Cochester), Mr Julian Critchley (Aldershot), Mr Victor Goodhew (St Albans), Mr Neil Thorne (Redbridge, North) and Mr David Rippon (Barnet, North). The Labour members are: Dr David Clark (South Shields), Mr Clive Soley (Hammer-smith, North), Mr James Hamilton (Borthall), Mr Neville Sandelson (Hillingdon, Hayes and Uxbridge), and Mr Peter Snape (West Bromwich, East).

The two peers are Lord Wallace of Goswarty and Lord Fortescue. Their report will help to influence British Government policy on garrison strength and expenditure here.

Philippines flood toll

Manila, Jan 21—The death toll in the worst floods to hit the southern Philippines for two decades has reached 103. The flooding began in mid-December.

# Expansion of China air links sought in Peking

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, Jan 21

British, Chinese and Hongkong representatives will meet in Peking next week to discuss the expansion of air services between Hongkong and China.

China wants to operate extra flights from Canton, Hangzhou and Peking.

Britain and Hongkong are seeking the resumption of Cathay Pacific's weekly chartered flights to and from Shanghai, which were vetoed by Peking when Cathay Pacific inaugurated its regular flights between Hongkong and London.

The Chinese, surprisingly,

claimed that this gave British airlines two operational services between China and London compared with China's single service between Peking and London. British Airways operates a regular service to Peking.

China is now issuing plastic credit cards—called "prosperity cards"—in Chinese—in Hongkong through the state-owned Nanyang Commercial Bank to encourage the increasing flow of visitors from Hongkong, Hongkong, and Macao. Cardholders will be able to get cash advances of up to \$1,000 (about £410) in Chinese currency in five Chinese cities.

Demonstrators shot dead by Indian police

Delhi, Jan 21—At least five people were killed when police fired on workers demonstrating at Bangalore and Chittaurgarh in Karnataka, South India, today. Earlier, police used batons and tear gas to disperse the crowds.

According to reports, six policemen were injured in stone-throwing incidents.

Bangalore and other towns have been hit by a stoppage called in support of 70,000 workers in five public undertakings who have been on strike for about a month demanding wage parity.

Agence France-Press.

# Japanese team on Everest delayed by mist

Kathmandu, Jan 21—Members of the Japanese winter Everest expedition reached Camp Two 21,000ft yesterday.

The British winter Everest expedition set up camp at 22,872ft on January 15. The British were climbing the west ridge, and the Japanese the traditional south-east ridge.

The four Japanese, led by Naomi Uemura, aged 39, had been scheduled to reach 23,585ft—Camp Three—today, but thick mist forced them to remain in Camp Two, Agence France-Press.

Prudence Glynn

# Back with the washboard and give drudgery its due

Then there was just this handkerchief. I stood poised by the ironing board, which I had managed to erect with the minimum number of blood blisters. I had remembered to check the bottom of the iron for any untoward residue, always a hazard in family life since the last user may have been trying to flatten a black plastic smudge, and this is not good news for the pearl grey silk crepe de chine blouse.

I was poised, in the interests of research, to do The Ironing, and since this is the domestic chore I hate more than most, I was wearing the sickly smug look of martyrdom. You know that look, a really special type of smirk. On the faces of more simple folk it suggests they are not right in the head, indeed possibly bery. On the face of the sophisticated martyr it is the sign of a deep understanding, often not untainted with spite.

But martyrs are determined to go through with it, so nothing can be more frustrating than to find there is nothing to go through with. Tied to the stake, just as the green smoke begins to curl from the faggots, or the noose is getting a touch tight, up gallops the King's Whoever, rears to a halt (horses are frightful hams) and says "Stop!" Tied symbolically to the stake and of a sudden I feel I contemplated with glee 134m deep of neatly folded laundry running the gamut of blouses to vest, school blouse, cotton corduroys, wool challis, polyester mix, pure silk. And then the only thing which needed ironing was the hanky.

To be honest, having pitifully little of the martyr in me, I should not pretend to any great disappointment, but I wanted to put to the test a statement I read recently that many women actually like ironing. They only like it, they find it therapeutic. Taking a bath at the Old Man's shirt is almost as good as taking a bath at the Old Man himself. What a good bit of heavy digging is to the male so ironing is to the female (indeed those expensive and incomprehensible weather charts, with the little bits which lift on and off magnetically and which are

now buy a mechanical cultivator for a modest cost on hire-purchase and in the second instance, as I had proved, the operation is almost entirely superfluous.

Well, if superfluous labouring is so obviously an opiate for the masses, there should be an immediate reduction in the number of labour-saving devices available; their allocation should be carefully supervised, perhaps with the help of an NHS psychiatrist or social worker.

As unemployment rises and longevity sets in, well, longer, many people clearly have not enough to do, and since women are the first to get the sack in times of trouble and also live longer than men, a step back to more active housework could fill in slack time and provide a new interest in life.

In monetary terms the gain would be enormous. The reasons for Britain's inundation with foreign appliances, very many of them of the protectionist variety, are quite simple. They are generally better designed, more reliable, cheaper, more efficient and more likely to arrive than the home product, which has to rely in the main on ESC's capricious steel deliveries and gulp-making prices. With only specified categories of people allowed to have washing machines, think of the effect on the balance of payments.

Local authorities would be the most likely to demand for spending cuts by abolishing night classes for the idle in Yoga, pottery and old time dancing. Yoga is usually just a trendy word for keep fit, and you can as easily work off those extra ounces by getting down on hands and knees with a dustpan and brush. After the washing, everyone's hands will be far too sore and cracked for whirling dervish, and as for old time dancing, we would all be out on our feet in quite another sense.

The television people would also save money. They would no longer have to provide those expensive and incomprehensible weather charts, with the little bits which lift on and off magnetically and which are

invariably wrong. Women would become the weather forecasters, forever darting outside to see if it is wise to hang out the sheets, and they would bellow their opinions over the garden wall.

Which reminds me, telephones would be virtually abolished. They have destroyed the art of letter writing, a tremendously time-consuming activity requiring a degree of grammar, vocabulary, and taste in presentation not needed in the mindless babble conducted at hideous expense via a set of strings occupied by a chicken with webbed feet.

All in all, if my propositions

are adopted everyone is going to be pretty busy. No time for neurotic nuclear shelter planning (just hide under the grand piano); no time for crank religions (too busy rinsing the conventional choir boy outfits by hand). These are two of the plagues of California, where filling in time is becoming an art form in itself.

To complete my research I have taken a survey of the labour saving devices which support my life style. Clothes washer (Hoover, with what I consider a bad switch design); dryer, great until you forget to empty the fluff catcher and finally extract a French beret;

vacuum cleaner, Japanese so no more to say; vacuum cleaner, Electrolux, excellent; deep freeze, fridge, waste disposer, roaster, automatic kettle, self-cleaning oven.

Will I dispose of them and make my life more relaxed and worthwhile? I won't, not one of them. I have no intention of doing anything domestic that I can possibly avoid, and to do this I need all the help I can get. As I have said, there is little of the martyr in my soul, and as Liberace said, "Too much of a good thing is simply wonderful."

Illustration by Peter Till

# Accidentally on purpose

Shona Crawford Poole

History has it that the dish named after Napoleon's victory at the battle of Marengo was concocted by his chef from the only ingredients available in the war-torn countryside. Thus chicken and crayfish were cooked with olive oil, garlic, onions, brandy and eggs, an unorthodox combination which survives to the present day.

And if the origin of chicken Marengo has been seasoned up in the re-telling, there is pretty sure to be a good portion of truth in the tale. For if chicken is the mother of invention in the wider world, it is surely so in the kitchen.

Need, accident and luck can conspire to assist or thwart one's efforts with sometimes surprising results. Hence the underdog success of a sauce that seemed doomed to fail. It was going to be a bernaise but the wine was red not white, the vinegar was flavoured with lemon not arragon, and the herbs were dried instead of fresh chervil and arragon. Need in this case lack of organization dictated that these were the flavourings when accident intervened in the form of unfamiliar controls on the stove and the sauce boiled. Here the luck of cooking at an altitude of over 5,000 ft had lowered boiling point sufficiently to save the egg yolk and butter emulsion from separating.

The result was not, of course, bernaise. Nor is it likely to be recorded in the annals of culinary history, but the fickle finger of fate had dictated that it was a most acceptable sauce. Unexpected guests accounted, on another occasion, for the improvised stir-fry of spring onions which turned out to go very nicely with roast lamb.

And this led to further experiments with stir-fried vegetables intended for serving as simply prepared meat or fish rather than as part of a full scale Chinese meal.

Once tried, stir-frying is an irresistible method of cooking many vegetables. Not only do they keep their colour and flavour and a bite of crispness, but a minimum of their nutritional value is lost in the cooking process. The method is splendidly quick and its few principles easily mastered.

An iron wok, the traditional best choice, is the ideal vessel for the job because it has the right heat-conducting characteristics and its deep, sloping sides allow fairly large quantities of ingredients to be stirred and

tossed in a small amount of oil without being projected on to the kitchen walls. That said, a wok is not essential. An iron frying pan will do very well.

Peanut oil (groundnut oil or bulle d'arachide on some labels) stands up best to the high temperatures generally used for stir-frying. Corn oil is also suitable, but olive oil and animal fats have too low a smoking point for this method unless you are prepared to sacrifice speed for their flavour.

A wide variety of vegetables are suitable for stir-frying. Bean sprouts, spring onions and Chinese leaves are predictable candidates. Less obviously suitable choices include any vegetable which can be cooked lightly and quickly when cut into pieces of appropriate shape and uniform size.

Stir-fried spring onions  
Serves two  
170g (6oz) spring onions  
2 tablespoons peanut oil  
1 tablespoon soy or tamari sauce  
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Trim both ends of the spring onions and discard any floppy or discoloured outer layer. Cut them in halves, and if the white end halves are the thickness of a pencil or fatter, slit them lengthwise. Wash and thoroughly dry them.

Heat the pan until it is very hot and add the oil which should look shimmery at once. Before it starts to smoke (if it does start to smoke, slightly less heat and fresh oil) add the spring onions all at once. Fry them for about two minutes, lifting and turning constantly to prevent them sticking and burning. Add the soy sauce and continue stirring and lifting until the spring onions are just cooked and most of the liquid has evaporated.

Serve immediately with almost any plainly roasted or grilled meat.

Chinese oyster sauce, which does indeed include oysters, or at any rate extracts from them, tastes more like a cross between Bovril and Marmite than anything much to do with shellfish. This being the case it is curious that it goes as well as it does with lettuce or Chinese leaves. If you have not already met it in a restaurant, it is worth a 40p trial from most suppliers of oriental foodstuffs.

Stir-fried lettuce  
Serves two  
1 large cos lettuce or half a head of Chinese leaves  
2 tablespoons peanut oil  
2 tablespoons dry sherry  
4 tablespoons oyster sauce (see above)

Cut the tough base from the lettuce or Chinese leaves and discard any damaged outer leaves. Cut it in 2.5cm (1 inch) wide strips across the leaves. If necessary, wash it and dry it very thoroughly. (Small cos lettuces may be quartered lengthwise instead of being cut in strips.)

Heat the pan until it is very hot and add the oil which should look shimmery at once. Before it starts to smoke add the chopped leaves all at once. Fry them for two or three minutes,

lifting and turning constantly to prevent them sticking or burning. Sprinkle with the sherry and stir-fry for another half-minute. Add the oyster sauce, stir briefly to coat the leaves and serve immediately. This one is especially good with roast chicken.

The best thing about bean sprouts is their crunch. They also have the merit of being a much better source of vitamins than their pallid appearance suggests, and they are cheap. Add a few more interestingly flavoured crisp vegetables like celery and red peppers and you have a kind of hot, crunchy salad.

Stir-fried winter salad  
Serves two  
225g (8oz) beansprouts  
2 sticks celery  
1 small red or green pepper  
1 small leek or 4 spring onions  
1 clove garlic

3 tablespoons peanut oil  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vinegar

Wash and very thorough dry the beansprouts. Pick out any which are badly damaged and discard any bean skins sticking to them. If the sprouts are more than about 5 cm (2 inches) long, cut them in halves. Finely slice the celery, cutting it diagonally across the stalk like French bread. Cut the pepper in halves, discard the seeds and slice the flesh into narrow strips. Slice the leek in halves lengthwise, wash and thoroughly dry it, and cut it into narrow diagonal strips. If you are using spring onions chop them in very short lengths. Peel the garlic and chop it very finely.

Combine all the vegetables, except the garlic, and mix them together. Heat the pan until it is very hot and add the oil which should look shimmery at once. Before it starts to smoke add the chopped garlic and stir it briefly before tipping in all the vegetables. Fry them for three to four minutes, lifting and turning constantly to prevent them sticking or burning. Sprinkle the mixture with the sugar, salt and vinegar, mix well and serve immediately.

Even root vegetables can be stir-fried. Try a mixture of carrots, turnips and parsnips cut into matchstick strips and flavoured with a little fresh orange juice or the more usual soy or tamari sauce. Stir fry them for about four minutes. If this leaves them still a little too crisp for your taste, lower the heat, cover the pan and cook for a minute or two more.

Finely shredded hard cabbage goes well with thinly sliced rings of leek. A little finely chopped fresh green ginger or a few caraway seeds give this combination an unexpected and delicious tang. Stir-fry the cabbage and leeks for three to four minutes adding a tablespoon or two of stock or dry sherry at the last moment.

Stir-fried mushrooms are particularly good. Cut them in T-shaped slices and stir-fry them with garlic for only a minute or two. Soy or tamari sauce is almost a must for mushrooms.

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**Rehearsing for Man and Superman** Photograph by Donald Cooper

"It is, after all, no longer than *Hamlet*, and audiences today are more used to concentrating on plays for longer", she said. "There have been *Nicholas Nickleby* and *The*

Christopher Morahan's production opens tonight at the Olivier, a stage that makes considerable demands on the actors. "You are sur-

proper role was as Cordelia in Jonathan's production of *King Lear*.

**Clare Colvin**

Maw's *La vita nuova* (1978-79), on the other hand, is a celebration of love, in a series of five highly-sensuous settings of Italian Renaissance verse. It exploits, like much of the soprano's work, the warmth of the soprano voice. Here Jane Ginsborg, possibly a little frail and more vibrant than might be ideal, and sets it against textures of exceptional vitality, richness and elaboration; like the willing woodwind and tremendo strings, enlivened by rapid leaping figures, of the Beardo setting, or in the final solo the throbbing, pulsing, and swirling lines and improvisatory interjections from the woodwind and harp.

**Touched** take place within the hundred day between the defeat of Germany and the defeat of Japan and concerns the life of a Nottingham family, three sisters, their mother, and a few neighbours and work contacts.

Riccardo Muti has returned to the Philharmonia Orchestra, of which he is the musical director, and will be recording Mozart's Mass in C minor this week with them and their chorus. By way of a trial run they performed it on Tuesday on the South Bank.

Muti prefaced it with Bach's third orchestral suite: it was

But with the change of government the girls move on from war-work under an officious Tory foreman to kitchen drudgery under a fiddling Labour supporter; and the dream starts going sour.

**It is Sandra's life that brings**

hence the double meaning when it turns out there is no child hopes for a better country also amount to no more than an hysterical pregnancy.

The piece takes no advantage of hindsight. From its FEMA catch-phrases and Vera Lynn

The production has the same qualities: spare, tough, economical, poised, and absolutely in period, apart from the tilted back wall mirror in Frank Conway's set which has the effect of catching the group and holding them at arm's length, as if distanced by time.

He introduces his colleagues as if in a circus freak show and parades them across the stage for the Miss Crippled Universes contest with Miss Legless announcing: "My toes never get cold in winter". The humour remains distinctly morbid in Richard Tomlinson's

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Thom's Japanese Teahouse, distracted the dancing class by the spectacular flickering of his tongue and slurred his feet in the gutter in order to avoid talking to other little boys on his way to school. He was a more advanced reader than they, for one thing, and disdained the morning glass of

One of the hits of last year's Edinburgh Festival, the Canadian play *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, by John Gray, is due to return to the West End this spring. Described as a play with music, the two-man drama about the First World War flying ace has just completed an eight-week run at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. The impresario Peter Bridge said he expected it to open in London early in April. It will be the same production, with the same performers, Eric Roberts and John Gray, as were seen in Edinburgh. Bridge is also involved in bringing south another play from Edinburgh, *Kents*, by Michael Wilton, which was presented at the Traverse Theatre during the 1979 Edinburgh Festival. It will be something of a contrast to *Billy Bishop*, since its subject is teenage homosexual prostitution. Directed by Robert Gillespie and designed by Grant Hicks, it should open in the West End later in the spring.

One of the acts for the Royal Shakespeare Company, which

whilst they paid a penny for milk, so I paid a penny for water out of the tap"; and, secondly, the "great" of the old, egalitarian days, "I told the children that the great of the old told of return to the coastal Lacashire of his childhood, "you never know what damage they can do".

*Edge of Britain, an hour-long conflation of four separate programmes on Southport, Preston, Blackpool and Morecambe seen earlier in Granada's case, the Beethovenbrook Library, the John Beethoven, a role he handled with complete confidence in a wholly personal style. Decimation, boundary changes, the zoning of*

Head passed George's mournful  
face while the musk-roses  
of Canary and the snowdrops  
of Larkspur delighted him.  
Lord Sunset delighted him,  
"The Triumph of the Millions",  
he noted approvingly as ladies  
waltzed gravely with each other  
under the crystal and ormolu in  
the Tower Ballroom, adding, as  
Sir John bowed not have done,  
that he hoped he would never  
have to go there again. The  
illumination, on the other  
hand, was superb.

Much like the stick of rock  
given to members of the press  
attending the preview (is it not  
much, minnier, like toothpaste  
and garden peas, than it used to

the way through," he may have dashed up from Oxford to see one of the few cards available to Preston, strikers in 1926, but enough in 1980, was clearly enough. What really mattered was that Lancashire had been grievously dismembered by bureaucrats—and that by vigorous raids into what others were pleased to call "Cumbria" and "Merseyside." Also, Taylor could make it whole again. Murray Grigor (author), and Des Kemp (producer) of him a pathetic platform and only the music of Ron Geeson's music sounded insistently, loudly, and horribly wrong.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Westminster City Council against an order Mr Justice Lawson made under Order 113, rule 6(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, setting aside an order of Mr Justice Russell allowing the council to serve short summons and continuing the council's summons against Order 113, rule 6(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Mr. James Monaghan, two other named persons and persons unknown, were the defendants.

[illegible]

giving reasons why not could be carried out in the future. But there was no evidence to show that the Government had any right to be at the trial.

governed by the rules of the Criminal Justice Act made under rule 6(11). I had got round this if I had to, but I had to be able to bring the application back to the judge to serve short notice. The judge would make that procedure was not the matter went before he could make the final order. I can make such an order under rule 6(11) unless notice of five days was given. The matter was urgent. I had to go and see the judge. I had been dealing with the practice court under paragraph 6 of the direction. (Possession of a firearm) 13 (1980) 1 W.L.R. 1000. I should be applied. The direction provided that an order should be made to the in hearings in court, and the judge not allow such an order to be made. The matter should be brought to such date as the judge direct. Although the direction related to the Criminal Justice Act 1967 it should be applied in the Queen's Bench Division. It was wrong to discuss the matter out of head. The judge should have a judgment, and the judge agreed. The judge was allowed. The judge was Mr. D. P. Evans.



Ronald Butt

## Family affair

Have you heard of an organization called Family Forum? No? That is hardly surprising. It has received almost no publicity. But its brief is a tale worth telling to illustrate how to tap public resources by branding a word that (in its common meaning) has everybody's approval, and then to promote social change by re-defining the word's meaning.

Family Forum seems to have had its origin in what was called the National Council of Social Services (NCSS) now the National Council for Voluntary Organizations (NCVO), a long-standing body with the impeccable general objective of promoting voluntary action.

According to the 1977-78 annual report of the NCSS, a meeting had been convened to discuss "the place of the family". It was chaired by Mr Peter Bottomley, MP, who became chairman of the committee with representatives on it of various voluntary and statutory bodies.

"The committee came into being," the report records, "to discuss whether a family, in the sense in which it is used in the law, should be defined in a way that would be consistent with the sort of structure and programme it should have."

As a working definition, it was agreed that a family was a household with a dependent or dependants and/or a group of people fulfilling family functions. (Please read that again; several times if you can bear it.)

So Family Forum was launched, and one of its organizers' earliest preoccupations was defining what it would mean by the "family". One of its most active members, Mr Alastair Service of the Family Planning Association and formerly lobbyist of the Abortion Law Reform Association.

At a meeting on January 23, 1979, he reported that he had observed that it would be dangerous if we sought a close definition of the family. It was, he said, very important that we should define it as widely as possible at all.

At a meeting of the Family Forum organizing committee on January 22, 1980, plans for an inaugural meeting were made, a promise of £20,000 by the Carnegie Trust was announced, the mechanics of child benefit were considered and at the head of suggestions for future activities was "Contraception and the Under 16s" and also a much wider range of issues.

The same afternoon, an open meeting was held by Family Forum to discuss the provision of contraceptives for children below the age of consent, bodies representing both sides of the argument being present. This was at the time when Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Social Services Secretary, was contemplating modifying the DHSS memorandum which virtually licensed doctors to prescribe the pill to girls below the legal age without telling their parents.

One interesting incident at a Family Forum meeting on the subject was the production of a letter from the Mothers' Union (apparently prepared by Ms Anne Hopkinson, chairman of the MU's social problems committee) supporting keeping the DHSS memorandum unchanged. This intervention seems by no means to command general assent in the Mothers' Union.

On September 10, 1980, the inaugural meeting of Family Forum was held at the House of Commons. Among those who "endorsed the Constitution on behalf of their organizations and so became founder members" were the representatives of such well-known pro-family groups as the Family Planning Association and the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, as well as Ms Anne Hopkinson of the Mothers' Union.

The scene was now set for the first annual general meeting. It was addressed by none other than the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, which I suppose was only right and proper as the Exchequer is giving £20,000 to support Family Forum in its first two years. Sir Geoffrey, I understand, talked very sensibly about the family as most of us understand it, which is plainly not at all the idea of

many who will have the use of this organization.

All this, you might have thought, represented quite a success for Mr Service whose own views on family attitudes were suggested in his observations to the *Sunday Times* in 1976 about his own children: "We've asked them when they first sexual relationship. They both think it will be around 16."

But Mr Service was still a little disquieted. Even before the AGM on November 14, he wrote to Mr Bottomley on November 14 expressing his concern about the list of member organizations.

"That makes curious reading in one respect especially," wrote Mr Service. There was a plethora of nominations from local pressure groups in Harlow and other individual places of the Parents and Children Concern type."

Mr Service went on to say that he foresaw a "dangerously unbalanced membership with such views if local organizations (which he thought to be offshoots of the Responsible Society) could join though he thought it only fair that national organizations such as the Responsible Society and the Order of Christian Unity should be members of the FF and (in the future) support, balance the membership of the FF and Brook Advisory Centres."

"I therefore believe," he concluded, "that we must be careful in establishing the rules governing admissible organizations—and I realize that this factor must be balanced against the need for representation of grass roots bodies. I hope you will be able to devise proposed rules which will take both these factors into account. I think it is important if we are to make Family Forum work as we would all wish it to. Yours ever, Alastair."

For myself, I don't think Mr Service has much to worry about. With Mr Hopkinson (to whom Mr Service sent a copy of his letter to Mr Bottomley), Mr Nicholas Tyndall, of the Marriage Guidance Council (who has promoted the written book *Make it Happy* which the FPA were obliged to cease stocking before they could get their renewed grant from the Government) and a few more to keep him company, I don't think he will be lonely on Family Forum's executive committee.

I expect he will be successful with his non-definition of the family, not as the deputy director of NCVO. Mr Roy Manley wrote contemptuously to an inquirer about the Family Forum: "I would state at this moment that the Forum is unlikely to limit its interest to the conventional family of two parents and two kids."

In short, Family Forum will try to emulate the American experience in which the word family was taken over by the social engineers and re-defined as something else. The White House conference report of 1970 (Forum 14) described optional forms of the family as ranging from "nuclear families" to "single parent", "communal" and "homosexual varieties".

So we can't say we haven't been warned. I am all for social work to help anyone who is distressed, but that is the point of describing as the family something that is not the family—except to destroy the meaning of a word and a concept? The family, larger or smaller, means those who are linked together by marriage, by blood or by formal adoption.

Why is Mr Service so frightened of grass roots opinion? The answer can only be that if it could express itself it would declare against the basic ethos that he and like-minded organizations support.

Should we not listen to what he calls grassroots opinion on these matters in preference to the professional career-structured social bureaucracy which runs to many of the organizations sheltering under the umbrella of Family Forum? At the very least is this the sort of exercise for which this Government should spare public money? Even £20,000 would provide a wheelchair or two.

prosecuted. The same goes for unauthorized signs outside their premises, which often cause great offence. We take them to court, they pay the pathetic little fines that are demanded and they are still laughing."

One of the difficulties lies in a confusion of authorities. Westminster is the planning authority and also has powers to license shops and massage parlours. Entertainment licences are the responsibility of the Greater London Council. Enforcement of the obscenity laws is up to the Metropolitan Police. The Fire Brigade must decide whether buildings constitute a safety hazard. Drink licences are a matter for the magistrates.

Moreover, the GLC's powers to control so-called entertainment apply not only to places which are open to the public and not to those which are private clubs; this opens the door to all sorts of abuses.

Bryan Cassidy, chairman of the council's public services and safety committee, is attempting to maintain the momentum of the clean-up Soho campaign launched by his colleague, Bernard Brook-Patterson, three years ago, but the opposition is serious and well organized. Often it is almost impossible to track down the owner of a particular establishment, a development that we shall have to say a sad goodbye to the geoffrey fish and stochically

accept the whips and scorns of our supposedly enlightened time. Soho, you deserved a better fate.

**Hard cases**  
Jack de Manio, the former broadcaster who could never get the time right, gave a lunch yesterday for a group of the most influential men in London—the hall porters at eleven of the capital's leading hotels. The tenuous excuse was that de Manio once worked in a hotel, and he had been retained to promote the merits of a restaurant which I shall of course not name.

Hall porters are almost as willing to divulge information as they are to dispense drinks in the middle of the night, but I did gather that hotels are going through a lean period at present. Claridges, for example, has allowed flight stars to stay at the hotel, a development that would have outraged its more genteel visitors a few years ago. Hotels at Heathrow have had to follow the Laker example by offering cheap rooms on a standby basis.

But despite the decline in the numbers of Arab and Iranian clients, staff at the Carlton in Knightsbridge were gratified recently to receive a Christmas present from a Middle Eastern guest of 48 cases of alcohol. Before it was discovered that the hotel was meant to receive only one case,

the hall porters had disposed of it all in a spirit of Christmas bonhomie.

"And if you print any of that," said one of the luncheon guests, "we'll break your neck."

**Making waves**  
Trouble in the air in the Shetland Islands has led to the resignation of Dr Jonathan

God rest you, peaceful gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.

But leave your sports a little while—the dead are borne this way!

Armies dead and Cities dead, past all count or care.

God rest you, merry gentlemen, what portent see you there?

Break ground for a wearied host That have no ground to keep.

Give them the rest that they covet most.

And who shall be next to sleep, good sirs,

In such a trench to sleep?

Thus spake Rudyard Kipling, and not a moment too soon, if you ask me.

For it is hard, and getting harder, to find new ways in which to say old things: *occidit miseris crambre*.

What is the point of announcing for the hundredth time that Christmas comes but once a year, that the sun shines by day and the moon by night, that twice two make four? Only, I think, this: that the more we fail to remind ourselves that these things are true, the more we run the risk that the contrary view will eventually prevail.

And perhaps the most significant and terrible truth about our world is that there is a contrary view, there are people who insist that Thursday follows Friday, and not the other way about, that in some right-angled triangles the square on the hypotenuse is by no means equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides, that black, contrary to the hitherto universally accepted view, is in fact white, and vice versa.

A story in words

That is why, though I do not enjoy banging my head on a brick wall, I have to have another thump or two today. For a week or so ago there was a report, so far as I know, the world's concerns that I could find no trace of it in any newspaper other than *The Daily Telegraph*, where it was recounted in exactly 50 words.

Rumours that the Queen was not well began to circulate towards the middle of January when it was noticed that she was not going shopping in Cowes—as the usually did when she was on the Isle of Wight—or visiting cottagers on the Osborne estate.

Nothing was published, however, and not until the evening of Saturday the 19th did anything definite reach our office: a tip that the Queen was really ill.

With only 10 minutes to spare I seized £5 from the cashier, jumped into a cab and caught the last boat to the island. From East Cowes I walked up York Avenue, the long hill that leads to Osborne House. The road is lined with trees and trim villas, but I could not see the house in the black night with a cold, rainy wind.

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Nigeria gets down to basics, page 21

مكتبة الأصل

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

LAING  
make ideas take shape

**Stock markets**

FT Ind 461.7 up 3.1  
FT Gilt 68.72 up 0.19

**Sterling**

\$2.4285 up 90 points  
Index 80.2 unchanged

**Dollar**

Index 86.3 down 0.5  
DM 1.922 down 138 pts

**Gold**

\$578.50 up \$15

**Money**

3 month sterling 141.14  
3 month Euro 5 18.17  
6 month Euro 5 17.16

### IN BRIEF

## Electricity Council chairman named

Mr Austin Bunch, the deputy chairman of the Electricity Council was yesterday promoted to chairman on what appears to be a caretaker basis. His term of office will run for little more than a year, to March, 1982, when his predecessor, Sir Francis Tombs, was due to have relinquished the post.

Sir Francis resigned at the end of last year. Mr Bunch, who is 62, became deputy in 1976. He has also chaired the management committee of the £1,300m Electricity Supply Industry pension fund.

His successor as deputy chairman will be Mr Alan Plumpton, 54, who has been appointed for a period of five years. Mr Plumpton is chairman of the London Electricity Board.

## Trusthouse Forte may still sell tower

Trusthouse Forte, the hotels and catering group, may sell after all the Blackpool Tower which it bought recently as part of a package of leisure interests from Thorn-EMI.

Sir Charles Forte, chief executive of the company, said that offers had been received for the tower from local interests. His company was now considering its options, one of which was to keep the tower but spend £1m on refurbishment.

Financial Editor, page 21

## Alternative jobs

A study of the problems and opportunities for alternative employment and new investment at Scunthorpe on south Humberside, where 4,000 steelworkers are to be made redundant, has been launched by BSC (Industry), the corporation's job creation subsidiary.

## 111,784 fewer cars

United Kingdom car output in the first 11 months of last year was 860,693 compared with 972,484 in the same period of 1979. The figures, issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, show that BL's weekly average car production in the 11 months was 7,377, a fall of 19.9 per cent on a year earlier.

## £3m mill order

Redpath Engineering, the British Steel Corporation's construction engineering subsidiary, has won a £3m structural steelwork contract for a new rolling mill being built in Morocco by the state-owned Société Nationale de Siderurgie.

## £12.5m EEC grants

The European Commission said yesterday it was allocating a further £12.5m from the European Regional Development Fund towards the cost of projects in the United Kingdom. The money will contribute towards 14 industrial and three infrastructure schemes in assisted areas.

## Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 946.25, down 4.43 on Wall Street yesterday. The £-SDR rate was 126.888, while the £-SDR rate was 0.526179.

## State shipbuilders negotiating further cutback of 3,200 jobs

By Peter Hall  
Crucial talks on British Shipbuilders' plans to cut its labour force by a further 3,200 by the end of March will be resumed today between senior executives of the Corporation and leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The talks were adjourned last week after British Shipbuilders had circulated unions with details of the latest cutbacks. Since nationalization the rundown of the industry's labour force has been based on a voluntary redundancy scheme which provides for enhanced severance payments.

Eighteen months ago, the corporation and the unions agreed a joint policy involving the shedding of at least 10,000 jobs by the middle of last year, although the net job loss was to be reduced to 6,000 by increased activity in naval and offshore orders.

The corporation has insisted that the latest cuts, set against a background of continued poor demand for merchant ships and the heavy losses it is sustaining, form part of that agreement. The corporation's plan is to cut across the corporation's entire activities and will affect staff as well as shipbuilding workers.

Mr Robert Atkinson, British Shipbuilders' chairman, is expected to tell the unions that the cuts are essential if the industry is to survive in any substantial shape in the future, and that in the event of not being able to secure agreement the corporation will proceed with the cuts.

With the strength of sterling and intensified competition from low-cost shipbuilding nations, further yard closures cannot be ruled out.

There would have no real alternative than to implement compulsory redundancies. Union leaders are expected to question executives on the impact of the Government's decision, announced earlier this week, to slow down the Royal Navy's warship ordering programme. Mr John Nott, Defence Secretary, told the House of Commons that there would be "some adjustment" of the forward warship building programme, which would slow down the planned rate of contracts.

He said that the defence department would have discussions with British Shipbuilders on where next year's programme of orders would be allocated. Only then would it be possible to make a firm estimate of the number of jobs affected.

Those discussions and decisions cannot long be delayed since British Shipbuilders is scheduled to provide Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, with a revised version of its corporate plan in the spring. The plan is expected to be completed before the end of March and will incorporate estimated labour requirements.

The merchant shipbuilding labour force is now about 18,500, but clearly a slowdown in naval ordering can only serve to exacerbate the corporation's already considerable problems. This must pose problems over the future security of employment of many hundreds of workers in the specialist naval yards of Vickers, Vosper and Yarrow, and in the so-called "mixed yards" which can build both merchant and naval ships.

With the strength of sterling and intensified competition from low-cost shipbuilding nations, further yard closures cannot be ruled out.

## Coral and Grand Met inquiries go to DoT

By Philip Robinson  
The Stock Exchange has passed the results of its preliminary inquiries into share dealings in Coral Leisure and Grand Metropolitan to the Department of Trade under the new insider dealing laws.

The exchange said in a statement yesterday that having considered information gained as a result of its inquiries, the dealings appeared to merit further examination by the department.

But it stressed that this should not be taken as an indication that it thinks there have been any violations of Sections 40 or 69 of the Companies Act, 1980, which relate to insider dealing which carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment and or an unlimited fine.

The inquiries covered a period leading up to September 1, 1980 when Coral Metropolitan launched a £87m takeover bid for the gaming group. It was subsequently dropped after a monopolies referral.

During last August, Grand Met's price rose from 155p to 165p on August 22, and then fell, ending 4p lower on the day of the announcement at 155p.

Last year, the shares moved between a range of 120p and 167p. Over the same period, Coral's shares rose from the low 60s to peak at 86p on August 8 before dropping back to 59p on August 18 and 56p by August 22, after which the shares moved up to 61p on August 27 and were suspended up 5p at 65p on the day of the bid, which valued the shares 103p.

Under the "early warning system" agreed between the department and the exchange, details of inquiries were passed to the DoT some days ago.

Insider dealing became illegal in June last year. The exchange has already referred dealings in Petrochem (which was cleared in December), Wilkinson Match, County & District Properties, Cornhill Dresses and Pennine Commercial Holdings.

## CBI seeks boost for small business

By Edward Townsend

The Confederation of British Industry is to urge the Government to adopt new measures to encourage people to invest their savings in small companies. The aim is to make industry as easy and attractive an investment as building societies or unit trusts.

As part of its proposals to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for inclusion in the March Budget, the CBI wants substantial tax incentives offered to individuals who invest in new and smaller companies directly or indirectly through bodies to be called Small Firms' Investment Companies (SFICs).

The CBI would like to see such investors qualify for low capital gains or income tax when their investments are realized. To encourage the formation of SFICs, it wants them to be made exempt from both taxes.

Mr Fienness Cornwallis, chairman of the CBI's smaller firms council, said yesterday: "If implemented, our proposals would represent a significant step forward in improving the supply of capital to new and expanding smaller companies, which would provide real benefits to the economy in terms of increased investment in high technology businesses, a revitalization of our industrial base and the creation of new jobs."

"It is vital to restore the attraction to individuals and financial institutions of direct or indirect investment in new and smaller companies by giving them tax treatment similar to that they would receive on other forms of investment."

Sir Terence Backus, director-general of the CBI, said after yesterday's monthly meeting of the confederation's council, that the Budget proposals would be "financially neutral" to industry but would not add to inflation.

The CBI's representations will be finalized in the next week and will be aimed at reducing industry's costs, particularly in relation to energy, interest rates, local authority rates and the "temporary" National Insurance surcharge.

The CBI regards as encouraging the latest results of its pay data bank, showing that two-thirds of wage settlements in December were in single percentage figures, but is concerned that a number of significant negotiations in the current pay round remain to be concluded.

Sir Raymond Pennock, the CBI president, said that settlements to come in areas like banking and local public services could have a considerable impact on industry's costs. Last year, companies paid "very heavily" because of wage deals in those sectors.

On the rating front, Sir Raymond said it was "no use local authorities thinking they can solve their problems by passing them on to us". Industry already paid 45 per cent of local rates.

Meanwhile, Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, yesterday called on people from industry and commerce with experience of handling substantial budgets and investment decisions to help councils to get better value for money. Firms must realize that their local councils and should encourage employees interested in standing for election.

## £30m credit support for Polish economy

By Michael Prest

Export experts from the United Kingdom to Poland are to be guaranteed under a \$36m (£15m) line of credit granted by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. The move follows recent reports that the Polish economy is in a state of stagnation and that the country is a higher risk.

The ECGD credit is part of an interim financial arrangement for Poland announced yesterday by the Foreign Office and is for about £30m. The arrangement is one element in the EEC's efforts to help the financing of existing Polish debts to Britain and the same amount is credit for essential imports.

The move is seen as a sign of the government's intention to help the Polish economy, which is being organized by Lloyds Bank International, are barley, beef, butter, pigmeat, and sugar. Help for Poland. The announcement is the first phase of a major effort by Western countries to help the Polish economy (David Sparrow, Our Diplomatic Correspondent, writes).

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Mr John De Lorean yesterday with one of the first cars.

## De Lorean output starts

By Robert Rodwell

Mr John De Lorean yesterday drove one of the first of his company's sports cars off the production line at the Government-owned De Lorean car plant in Belfast.

The car is part of the first batch being shipped to the United States next month. "We aim to get about 700 cars into the States by the end of April for a coast-to-coast market launch early in May," Mr De Lorean said.

The launch will be some months later than the original date specified when an agreement to build the plant in Belfast was signed in August, 1978. It is fortunate there have been a few delays because the

United States market has been dull but is reviving again. We will hit it at just the right time," Mr De Lorean said.

Government investment in the project is to total more than £60m, including a £17.7m equity stake. About £40m has gone straight back into the Northern Ireland economy in construction of the 76-acre plant.

Production of cars is three a day next week, rising to five a day next week, 10 a day the week after, and increasing steadily. The workforce, currently 865, is also building up as recruits are trained 40 to 50 a time.

"By the end of the year we will have 1,500 working here, and 2,000 by the middle of next year," Mr De Lorean said.

## Cabinet to meet on BL's £1,100m loan application

By Our Industrial Editor

Cabinet Ministers are meeting today to consider the request from British Leyland for a further £1,100m of public funding for the company.

The latest request for government aid to cover a four-year period, is vital to the success of the company's plans to reestablish BL as a profitable motor group.

The question of whether the Government will agree to the request, or if it is to do so, the form in which the cash will be made available and over what period, is not likely to be resolved.

Although in recent weeks several ministers have reconciled themselves to providing Sir Michael Edwards, the BL chairman, with some of the funds he requires—at least in the short term—in view of the social and financial consequences of denying the request, a government announcement is not expected for some time.

One factor which ministers clearly will take into account is the company's performance. They will want to know the outcome of the joint management union inquiry into the dismissal of eight workers from the company's Longbridge plant after an internal inquiry into alleged disturbances at the works last November, during which cars and property were damaged.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, apparently has been convinced that the BL plan should be supported.

On taxation, the Budget Director said that plans would be developed to reduce the overall tax burden for all sectors of society. Substantial tax changes would be outlined, designed to "encourage growth, savings and investment."

Mr Stockman said that the "almost across-the-board cuts in domestic spending" would range from reductions in benefits to students and welfare recipients, to curbing public works programmes and government subsidies to synthetic fuel industries, and to stretching current government capital expenditure plans.

Economics chief: Mr Murray Veidenbaum, 53, an highly respected conservative economist is likely to be appointed as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers at the White House and as such he will become the chief economic policy adviser to President Reagan and his cabinet.

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## British Steel set for deal with GKN

By Our Industrial Staff

Formation of a new joint venture steel company between the effectively bankrupt British Steel Corporation and GKN, the steel and engineering group, is expected to be announced within the next two weeks.

Senior executives of both the BSC and GKN had a further round of talks yesterday and barring any last-minute hitches, a formal announcement is expected to be made by the two partners. The new company represents the first stage of the most fundamental shake-up of the United Kingdom steel industry since nationalization of the 14 largest companies 14 years ago against an unremitting background of falling demand and mounting losses in both the public and private sectors of the industry.

Discussions between GKN and BSC have been taking place over the so-called "Phoenix" project involving a rationalization of billets, bars and wire rod production in the United Kingdom for nearly two years. The talks have been actively encouraged by the

## 2,500 jobs to go

Agreement with steel industry unions was reached last night for the closure of the Normandy Park steelworks at Scunthorpe with the loss of 2,500 jobs. This agreement negotiated locally will mean that the plant will cease operations at the end of next month, with the rundown in the workforce starting almost immediately and the first 1,000 workers due to leave by the end of next month.

Government and by Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, in particular. The new company, which will be a limited liability concern, will have an annual turnover approaching £300m and will employ between 5,000-10,000 workers.

The Phoenix concept has important political attractions for the Government in view of the fact BSC needs further substantial support. Ministers had hoped that the

joint venture company would be a majority private sector stake, but GKN has been loathe to take a controlling 51 per cent interest (although the BSC would have liked a controlling stake). A compromise appears to have been reached whereby each of the partners would hold a 50 per cent interest with GKN providing key management personnel.

Government finance for the steel industry will be reduced substantially, although it is expected that through the BSC, the Government will provide sufficient working capital to carry the new company through its first two years of operation. Discussions are going ahead on the formation of a second phoenix joint venture which will involve a GKN steel making activities through a rationalization of the engineering steel sector.

Companies involved in this project include Dupont, the jointly owned Round Oak company where the present partners are the BSC and Tube Investments, and Hadfields, the Loughborough subsidiary.

## 500 more jobs at aircraft works

By Bill Johnstone

British Aerospace plans to continue producing its new £1m light aircraft, the Jetstream 31, at Prestwick, Ayrshire, and create 500 new jobs, despite the deferment of an order for the plane by the Ministry of Defence on Tuesday.

The announcement comes in the wake of the Government





## Chrysler may set higher rate

Chrysler Corporation may have to offer a higher than planned interest rate on its \$400m (about £167m) of new borrowings to help overcome concern among investors about the company's future.

Even though the notes are fully guaranteed by the Government, United States Federal officials have authorized the company to offer a more attractive interest rate than in the past because of the "market perception of Chrysler's difficulties, which creates investor uncertainty".

## Yugoslav credit

Yugoslavia has obtained a DM500m (about £105m) United Kingdom credit from a syndicate headed by four Luxembourg subsidiaries of West German banks, says the Deutsche Bank AG. The credit, which runs for seven years was signed in Frankfurt.

## Malaysian port study

The Kelantan state government in Malaysia is examining a study carried out by Japanese experts for construction of a port near Kota Bharu, about 200 miles north-east of Kuala Lumpur costing \$250m (about £104m), government sources said.

## Opec Geneva meeting

Oil ministers of Petroleum Exporting Countries will hold their next regular meeting on May 25 in Geneva, the Opec Secretariat said in Vienna. The ministers meet every six months to review oil prices.

## Seoul ship deal

Korea Shipbuilding and Engineering Corporation said in Seoul it has signed a \$120m (about £50m) contract to build three oil tankers for Abu Dhabi National Oil Tanker Co. Delivery is set for 1983.

## Diamond exchange

Asia's first diamond exchange is expected to open in Hong Kong in July as planned, despite a predicted downturn in demand for the stones this year, the *Asian Wall Street Journal* reports.

## Companies cast envious glances at newcomers' special incentives

# Trouble brewing in enterprise zones

The Government's decision that Dudley in the West Midlands is one of the first to be formally invited to prepare an enterprise zone scheme will enable a number of problems to be aired which could have implications for the nine other zones already suggested.

In the two and a half months since the sites were proposed, some of the initial euphoria in Dudley has given way to doubts and even organized opposition.

There is a growing fear within Dudley companies that the many "carrots" on offer to attract new industry to the 538-acre zone will leave them at a serious disadvantage compared with newcomers.

Even so, many local businesses are prepared, for the good of the community, to live with the idea of advantaged new competitors. What they will not accept is that the 100 companies already established in the zone should receive the same bonuses as the newcomers. These include exemption from development land tax, 100 per cent capital allowances for commercial and industrial buildings, a 10-year exemption from rates, and a liberalised planning procedure.

Upwards of 150 businessmen have attended meetings to voice their concern and question local council leaders. Among them was Mr William Andrews, chairman of the Dudley Group of steel processing and stockholding companies.

As he pointed out: "We are only six miles from the zone boundary, yet over-

night our competitors inside the zone and new ones who join them will have a head start on us."

"Take the 10-year freedom from rates, for instance. For a firm of our size, rates account for £25,000 a year, and that could be the difference between staying in business during the present recession and going to the wall."

"I believe that the Government has got to take another look at the forms of the incentives being applied to the zones. For instance I am in favour of help to develop the land and the provision of lower start-up charges. But a 10-year subsidy on rates is ridiculous."

Another of his worries is that the zone will attract the wrong type of industry from the wrong place. Dudley is a traditional Black Country metal manufacturing area. The existence of a large number of unemployed skilled metalworkers, plus the financial incentives, could persuade engineering and metal processing companies to move from neighbouring West Midlands towns.

Wolverhampton has already expressed its concern at the possible drain on employment. On the other hand, Wolverhampton could be accused of snail's pace. It was itself a vigorous but unsuccessful campaigner to be allocated an enterprise zone.

Zone supporters have another problem. Dudley is the only one of the proposed zones not in a government-designated assisted area. Without that status, it cannot

quality for development grants from the EEC, and that will place it at a serious disadvantage when competing for new comers, particularly where multinational business is concerned.

The Blackbrook Valley site chosen for the new zone lies above the South Staffordshire coal seam on which the wealth of the region was largely founded. Over the years it has been worked out, leaving a scarred landscape of slag heaps and disused mine shafts. Some of the old shafts are not marked on maps and will have to be traced to be filled in.

Without the proposed zone incentives, development costs would be prohibitive. More than half the acreage is already occupied by industry while the remainder is owned by eight private companies.

Dudley's unemployment is at a post-war high of over 20 per cent for the borough and 11 per cent for the catchment area of the zone. The area needs another 10,000 new jobs to restore employment to the levels of the late 1970s.

A Department of Environment spokesman said last night: "The zones have only been selected at this stage. Before they are formally designated, probably in the summer, there will be ample opportunity for interested bodies and individuals to make representations. This will include taking part in a public meeting."

Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Correspondent

## Lords report rejects energy price equality

By John Huxley

Equal prices for particular forms of energy throughout the European Economic Community would be neither attainable nor desirable, according to a report by a House of Lords Select Committee, published today.

The committee says it is important that energy prices should be determined according to common general principles, and calls for these to be more clearly defined.

But it adds: "These principles should not be interpreted in the United Kingdom in such a way that energy prices are higher than those prevailing in other industrialized countries."

Publication of the report comes at a crucial point in the continuing national debate over the prices paid for energy by British industry. The Confederation of British Industry, and many of its member organizations, have argued in recent months that business in the United Kingdom shares a larger burden of rising energy prices than overseas rivals.

These claims have, on the whole, been denied by ministers, but they are being examined more closely in a number of other forums. A Commons Select Committee on Energy is examining pricing policy and is expected to take evidence from Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for

Energy, probably on February 10.

A 12-man task force has also been set up by the Government and the National Economic Development Office to assess the impact of high energy costs on British industry. The task force, which first met earlier this week, is hoping to prepare a report within six weeks.

The Lords Select Committee took evidence from government departments, energy supply industries and the Petroleum Industry Association, as well as examining European Commission policy on harmonization of energy prices and taxes.

Like many of its predecessors, the committee has been unable to come to any firm conclusions on industry claims that it is paying more for its energy. The committee found that a number of disparities exist between energy prices in different member states, but that it is extremely difficult to ascertain the prices actually being charged for some important uses of energy.

The report says that European coal mining industries face particular problems at present. 2nd Report from the House of Lords European Communities Committee Session 1980-81: Harmonisation of Energy Prices and Taxes. HMSO.

## £2,100m surplus for chemicals industry

By Our Industrial Staff

Despite a fall in production and sales at home, Britain's chemicals industry had a record trade surplus last year of more than £2,100m, 42 per cent up on 1979.

This represented more than half of the surplus earned by manufacturing industry as a whole.

Last year was one of the worst for the chemicals industry on record. Most of the large companies, including ICI, Shell, and BP Chemicals, announced reduced profits, or even losses, and were forced to make a total of several thousand workers redundant.

Writing in the company newspaper this month, Mr Robert Horton, managing director of BP Chemicals, said: "I am afraid that all the signs are that for much of 1981, times are not going to be any better."

Last night, Mr Martin Trowbridge, director-general of the Chemical Industries Association, described the figures as a "sugar-coated pill". He explained: "From the outside, the increased favourable trade balance looks good and certainly reflects well on those who have struggled successfully against competitors in the international marketplace. However, the bitter core is that much of the business has been bought at a minimum

profit or even a loss, arising from high United Kingdom energy prices and the artificially inflated petro-pound."

At £5,303m, chemical exports were almost 8 per cent up on 1979, although they declined in volume by 4.5 per cent.

Imports were worth £3,164m. This was 7 per cent down in value and more than twice that amount lower in volume, reflecting the domestic recession in manufacturing industry and general home demand for imported chemicals.

The overall trade figures have gained further by the continued improvement in the terms of trade. Mr Trowbridge said: "The monthly export figures showed a good start to the year, followed by a decline in imports through the summer and autumn, which somewhat surprisingly was arrested in October and November."

At the same time, the declining trend in imports appeared to have ended in the closing months of the year, probably reflecting an end-to-stocking in some sectors of industry.

Generally during recessions imports fall at a much faster rate than domestic demand. However, during the present decline, import penetration, expressed as a proportion of home demand, has remained at about 33 per cent.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The proper role of pension funds

From Mr Robert A. McCrindle, MP for Brentwood & Ongar (Conservative)

Sir, You report that a special TUC conference is to consider a recommendation that at least £1,000m should be made available from private pension funds

so as to provide capital for investment in manufacturing industry. While no-one would deny that there is indeed a shortfall in such investment, the suggestion that the pension funds should be arbitrarily transferred, no matter how laudable the purpose, is tantamount to a confiscation of funds entrusted by employees for their future pension provision. Much has been made recently of the benefits obtained by pensioners in the public service through index-linked pension schemes, while their private industry

retirees from private industry have no such guarantee of protection against inflation. If the large sum of £1,000m is to be invested more for the purpose of producing jobs than for the provision of the contributors' pension, then we shall indeed be in a situation, some time in the future, where private pension schemes may be unable to meet their pension commitments, far less move to a situation in which their members too are protected against inflation.

The whole suggestion is based on a dogmatic conviction that the pension funds are there to be walked for public purposes. Instead, it should be recognized that they are there to be invested profitably so as to ensure that the individual's pension is available when he has finished his life's work.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT MCCRINDLE, House of Commons, January 20.

Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Correspondent

From Mr C. W. Aschan

Sir, An article in *The Times* of January 8 quotes with apparent approval two bureaucrats of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) who criticize the alleged unfair gains through the rise in gold prices since the middle 1970s which, they say, benefited rich countries but not those of the Third World who owned less gold.

This your contributor describes as a profoundly unfair system. Gold has in fact declined in price from its high of some 30 times more in sterling than it did in 1900, and we need around £50 to buy what could be bought for a sovereign in 1900. The rise in gold since the mid-seventies was a much overdue correction of the absurd anomaly that resulted from the misguidance and ill-fated attempt by governments to hide the

rapid loss of value of their currencies and their political disinclination to see their principal gold producing countries increase their earnings. When persistent inflation inevitably brought this to an abrupt end there was naturally a scramble to buy gold before it was officially depressed that they bore no resemblance to real values. In real terms there has been no gain in value of gold.

The UNCTAD gentlemen and your contributor, who are completely out of touch with the value of sovereigns, propose that taxpayers of the "rich" countries should further subsidize the Third World with "gains" from their gold holdings although they are clearly fictitious. And if they were not, why should they?

C. W. ASCHAN, Glaciers, Appin, Argyll PA38 4DQ.

From Mr David Toulson

Sir, I refer to your article "Never on a Sunday, unless..." (January 15). The laws on Sunday trading are so complicated and in many instances ridiculous, one could almost believe they had been compiled by a class of school children.

Fish and chip shops throughout the country should have the same freedom of choice as the other take-away food shops. It is as though we have become the ethnic community as far as trading is concerned. We see Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Greek, Turkish and many other

national take-away food shops trading freely on Sundays. But it is against the law for us to open our doors to sell what has often been called "The great British dish".

We sincerely hope that the Bill of Sir Anthony Meyer MP will be having more luck than the other seven attempts that have been made. All we want is equality.

H. DAVID TOULSON, Confederation of Fried Fish Caterers' Associations, 14 Iles Lane, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

From Mrs Susan Burr

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## VAT relief is vital to tourism

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Without some VAT relief, it will be "Goodbye



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Trusthouse holds the line

Trusthouse Forte pegged-down costs ruthlessly in the second half. And in a business which is a large employer of casual labour and where perhaps 30 per cent of every pound of sales is accounted for by wages, it has the flexibility to do this.

Against a background of deteriorating occupancy rates through the year, then, particularly in its London hotels which suffered as Americans stayed at home because of high sterling, the outcome is creditable. On three out of four counts—trading profits, earnings and the dividend—Trusthouse has done better: only at the pre-tax profit level where it had to shoulder higher interest costs did it slip, by 3 per cent to £66m.

As ever the occupancy picture is confused. Trusthouse reckons it saw a 5 per cent decline on average in its London hotels and rather less than that outside the capital which suggests it was raising its share of a deteriorating market in this country.

In the United States, a 13 per cent improvement in dollar-expressed trading profit suggests modest progress despite slack trading in the lodge business as energy problems in the United States still affect business.

The outlook is naturally difficult to predict. Trusthouse is investing heavily (and keeping the tax charge lower) in new hotel

ing that his private interests and Samuel Montagu should act as a backstop should Argill shareholders not take a liking to the deal. All the same dealers are expecting the shares to come back a little higher from their 78p suspension price.

### Union Discount Aggressive stance

The 1980 tale from Union Discount is not dissimilar from that told by Alexanders earlier this week. In the first six months the group was able to do very nicely out of the booming commercial bill business and a rising gilt-edged market. But from then on the going became rather tougher, at least until the 2-point cut in MLR in late November.

The net result is that disclosed profits, after tax and transfers to inner reserves, are up from £2.08m to £3.35m. Moreover, given that Union came through the rigours of 1979 rather better than most other houses, it has been able to raise the full year dividend by 15 per cent to produce a yield of 6.5 per cent with the shares at 50p.

A particularly interesting move by Union at this stage is that it has decided to transfer £5.25m from inner to published reserves, helping to bump up year-end published reserves from £18.9m to £25.2m. In changing times Union reckons it a good idea to have rather more of its underlying strength in the shop-window, though whether its motives are born more out of caution or aggression remains to be seen.

In a more limited sense, Union is certainly taking a more aggressive line at the moment. It clearly sees good times ahead in the gilt-edged market and at the year-end it held £97m of fixed coupon gilts in addition to its £164m holding of variable rate government stock.

### Gilts Confidence returns

Sterling had another good day on the foreign exchanges yesterday and it seems that some at least of the overseas money coming in may be finding its way into the gilt-edged market once more. Certainly, the market is showing rather more enthusiasm now that it has absorbed last week's confirmation that the public sector borrowing requirement for the present financial year is likely to top the revised £11.500m estimate.

Meanwhile, having controlled short-term interest rates successfully over the past couple of weeks, the Bank of England fared rather less well yesterday—and on the monthly "make-up" day of all days in the interbank market, overnight money was trading around 20 per cent during the afternoon, with some reports of deals being done at the 100 per cent level. Even so, the general view appeared to be that "round-tripping" was probably not on that large a scale.

● Few companies can match AGB Research's record of unbroken profits growth since it went public 10 years ago with an offer for sale to raise around £500,000. A current capitalization of close on £45m provides adequate evidence that the point has not been lost on the market.

Meanwhile, underlying faith in AGB's "go-go" status is unlikely to be diminished by results like yesterday's announcement of a 22 per cent interim gain to £1.46m. At the same time, however, at 237p, after a 13p gain, the shares look to be well up with events on a p/e of over 20 and a yield of less than 3 per cent.

Market research which still provides the main drive in making light of recession having pushed its contribution up by a fifth to over £1m. Interestingly, not only the syndicated research contracts are performing well with the ad hoc consumer research strongly ahead as well and it is only in the relatively minor industrial division that any signs of weakness have been noted.

● Helped by a first-time contribution of £300,000 from the Australian McNeil Anderson acquisition in the second-half profits could be on the way to £4m after £2.9m last time, the sort of progress which might justify the shares selling at six times asset value.

## Economic notebook

### Cause and effect in fiscal policy

Where the true effectiveness of the Government's fiscal policy is concerned, economic ministers display an uncharacteristic modesty. Indeed, you could be forgiven for thinking that fiscal policy was pretty lax, rather than as is the case, very restrictive. To describe fiscal policy as restrictive at a time when both government spending and borrowing are substantially higher than forecast, may appear somewhat paradoxical.

There is, after all, no denying the fact that public spending will be 11 per cent higher in volume this year than planned—perhaps more—and that the public sector borrowing requirement will be 50 per cent more than originally predicted.

But much of this rise in spending and borrowing is a direct consequence of the economic recession—a recession caused in large part by the severity of the Government's fiscal policy itself. In order to see just how restrictive this policy really has been, it is necessary to distinguish that part of the budget deficit that results from the deliberate action (or inaction) of government from that part of the budget deficit that arises out of the recession (from increased social security payments and falling tax revenues). This will, to some extent, separate cause from effect, although it would be wrong to claim that the recession was entirely due to government action on the fiscal front.

That element of the budget deficit that arises out of the recession can be analysed by stripping out by employing "cyclically corrected" or "constant employment" budget balances. This is what the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has done in its latest Economic Outlook.

It shows the fiscal position of the seven major industrialized nations: that is to say, the position that arises from deliberate policy action in relation to changes in government spending and revenue flows.

Not surprisingly, the OECD exercise shows that the fiscal stance was strongly restrictive in most countries in 1980 and, under present policies, there will be a uniform and severe trend towards still greater budgetary restriction this year. The secretariat estimates that the combined effect of the oil price increase and the tightening in fiscal policy since 1978 will probably reduce the real gross national product of the OECD member countries by an average 64 per cent by the end of 1981, compared with what they would otherwise have been.

### Oil price

The oil price increase itself is likely to be responsible for about two-thirds of this output loss, but the restrictive monetary and fiscal policies of governments is responsible for the rest.

It is reckoned that the cumulative impact of "discretionary" (in other words, deliberate) fiscal changes between 1979 and 1981 is equivalent to a 22 per cent cut in the gross national product of the seven key industrial countries, or 11 per cent if the United States is excluded from their number.

In the case of the United States, it is assumed that the new Administration will carry out the first two instalments of the promised tax cuts and that there will not be completely offsetting cuts in government expenditure.

Even so, United States fiscal policy is predicted to become more restrictive this year. This is because, with a progressive system of income tax, inflation and real growth will both tend to push taxpayers into higher tax bands, siphoning money out of the economy. This is known as "fiscal drag" and requires that governments take offsetting

measures to pump money back into the economy. Failure to take such action can be construed as a deliberate policy to tighten the fiscal stance. The promised tax cuts in the United States this year will not fully offset this inflation-induced fiscal drag.

But, among the seven key nations (the United States, Canada, Britain, Japan, France, Germany and Italy) only Canada has adopted a fiscal stance anything like as deflationary as Britain's.

According to OECD calculations, the cumulative impact, between 1979 and 1981, of the monetary and fiscal measures deliberately adopted by the Thatcher government are equivalent to some 3 per cent of Britain's nominal gross domestic product. Against this, the recession has had a counter-effect, pushing up government spending and borrowing and thereby causing some matching relaxation in the budgetary balance. This expansionary effect is reckoned to be equivalent to about 24 per cent of nominal gross domestic product by 1981, compared to 1979.

### Offset

But, while the relaxation in the budget balance, caused by the recession, is tending to offset the deliberate tightening in fiscal policy, this is happening at a lower level of income and employment than would have been the case had policy not been tightened. This is why attention should focus on the Government's fiscal stance. It is this that is the instrument of policy, not the actual budget outcome.

What makes the present deflationary fiscal stance particularly tough is that it follows a progressive tightening of fiscal policy since the mid-seventies. In 1976 and 1977 taken together, fiscal policy was tightened by almost 7 percentage points of gross domestic product.

In 1979 the policy screw was again turned sharply, with a further twist last year, and another in prospect this year, assuming that the Government will continue to raise both the level of its spending and public sector wages. It is hardly surprising after several years of progressively tightening fiscal policy that the economy is in such a bad shape.

Certainly, there can be no justification for a net increase in taxation in the Budget on March 10. This seemed a distinct possibility at one stage, in order to prevent the recession-induced budget deficit from increasing.

But a policy aimed at suppressing all, or part of the recession's budgetary consequences in this way, could only be implemented by progressively tightening the fiscal stance still further, with the fall in incomes and output that this would entail.

In fact, the Chancellor would probably need to make net tax reductions in his coming Budget just to offset the deflationary impact of fiscal drag. The tightening of fiscal policy under the present Government has already led to a rise in the real burden of taxation overall.

Figures provided in a recent parliamentary answer show how the tax burden on individuals has risen. A married couple with two children, receiving half average earnings, will see about 14.4 per cent of their income deducted in tax payments and national insurance contributions in 1980-81, compared with 12.6 per cent in 1979-80. On twice average earnings the proportion will rise to 28.5 from 27.7 per cent.

Not only has the burden of tax risen, but it has become more unfairly distributed. Perhaps, after all, there is good reason for the Government to be modest about the results of its fiscal policy.

Melvyn Westlake



Road building in Bendel State, Nigeria: the new development plan will concentrate on the down-to-earth rather than the grandiose.

## Nigeria gets down to basics

Economic realism and a concern for real growth appear to be the principal motivations underlying the Fourth National Development Plan announced here last week by President Shagari.

In the past, under the generalissimo, Nigeria's grandiose plans for a modern state, with airports, super expressways, national theatres and stadiums, independence squares and a network of flyovers which would not look out of place in Los Angeles. No doubt they have in many cases been vital in improving the country's services and communications, but the sheer size and scale was wasteful.

What was needed, but ignored, was the development of agriculture, steady industrial investment, the provision of transport, improved educational facilities for the poor, simple housing and better and reliable power generation.

The new national plan, covering the years 1981-85, aims to provide these less spectacular but more necessary items in the economy.

As President Shagari put it, the plan aims at "simple, functional design, especially with respect to standard amenities such as schools, hospitals and residential buildings". Sensibly, it only seeks to maintain the 7 per cent growth rate seen during the last decade.

Agriculture will account for

£8,000m of the £64,000m to be injected into the economy over the next five years. The government wants to increase the country's domestic food production and its cash crop exports, which must in the decades ahead increasingly replace oil as the principal export. The plan suggests a doubling of the present agricultural growth rate of 2.5 to 4 per cent.

The same balance and conservatism is also reflected in the Government's plans for manufacturing industry. Again, the emphasis is not on new ventures so much as completing projects as in iron and steel, liquefied natural gas, pulp and paper, sugar, cement, nitrogenous fertilizers and petrochemicals. The motive appears to be a desire to develop the oil-related industries which have hitherto been foolishly ignored.

The plan is to be mainly financed by oil sales which are expected to rise from 2.1 million barrels a day in 1980 to 2.4 in 1985. Domestic consumption of crude is estimated as being always below half a million barrels a day.

The state share of the £64,000m is to be £55,000m of which only £15,000m will be raised by external borrowing. An equally generous £8,000m is allocated for private sector investment.

Experts are sceptical of the ability of the state and the private sector to raise such sums without more borrowing than is

envisaged. More worrying is their scepticism of the economy's ability to absorb such large sums in rapid and profitable investments. As they point out, even the truncated 1980 budget failed to spend, by some estimates as much as £2,000m.

Although the overall economic aim of the Government is "self-sustained growth and self-reliance", businessmen say that in the short term this plan will increase Nigeria's dependence on imports.

The total import bill, which has shown a marked increase since restrictions were eased last year, now stands at over £780,000 a month. The plan itself estimates a growth of imports from nearly £10,000m a year at present prices to nearly £19,000m by 1985.

The plan will also reinforce Nigeria's dependence on an expatriate work force. As President Shagari put it: "we will continue to require the services of foreign experts in the foreseeable future especially in the scientific and technological occupations where the shortage is most acute."

Already there are large British, French, German, Japanese and Indian communities employed in both the private and public sectors. Of the estimated extra 125,000 skilled manpower the plan calls for, a significant proportion will in fact come from abroad.

Karan Thapar

## Videodiscs: the big three jockey for position

### Derek Harris

Videodisc, the next technology on offer after the video cassette recorder (VCR), looks likely to start a battle in the market place earlier than expected. It will be a three-cornered contest with few holds barred.

One of the contestants, Philips, the Dutch electronics company, plans a British launch in May of the player which it claims has no equal in the United States market.

RCA, the American electronics manufacturer, is due to start marketing its own videodisc player in the United States by April and has licensed the General Electric Company to make players in Britain. A European launch is forecast for the middle of next year, with Britain a prime market.

Victor Company of Japan (JVC), a subsidiary of Japan's Matsushita, which has been dominating the VCR market but seemed likely to lag behind in videodisc, is still playing its cards close to its chest, but indications are that it will get out its system before the year end and possibly almost as quickly as RCA. The Japanese and United States markets will be its first targets, but Britain could be in line for attack soon after.

Each of the three has large investments in systems which are entirely incompatible (indeed, it is virtually a re-run of the VCR war, although the third contender there is Japan's Sony instead of RCA) and it will be a bewildering spectacle for the consumer.

RCA is credited with spending about \$130m (about £55m) on its Selectavision system, which is more than went on the development of its first colour television sets.

RCA's system will be the cheapest, selling in the United States probably at about £200 (£210, compared with the Philips video laser player (VLP) which, under its Magnavox label, costs about \$770. A recent version from Japan's Pioneer, licensed by Philips, sells at under \$750.

So far the indications are that JVC will sell its players between \$550 and \$600. Prices in Britain are likely to be somewhat higher, with the Philips one probably not far short of £400, JVC around £300 and RCA more than £250.

RCA has secured its price advantage at the expense of having the least complex system. On its disc a diamond stylus reads signals direct from grooves. There is no stereo sound, found on both the other systems, nor the built-in facilities like instant random access to particular tracks found in the Philips player.

JVC's disc has no grooves; a stylus, which reads "pits" on the disc electronically, is in sliding contact with the disc. In Philips's system there is no direct contact with the disc—a laser reads optical signals on a disc which is claimed to be virtually indestructible.

Anybody wanting facilities

from television broadcasts.

A recent survey suggested that of Britain's rather more than 300,000 VCR owners (only 5 per cent so far buying pre-recorded tapes).

The systems battle must also be affected by how far other electronics manufacturers can be attracted by one system. Apart from the licensed deal with Pioneer, Philips has deals with Sony (where there was a technology exchange for compatibility of systems), three other Japanese makers—Sanyo, JVC, and Sharp—and West Germany's Grundig. But Sanyo is hedging its bets by producing players based on the RCA system.

JVC badly needs to attract the allegiance of still uncommitted makers like Toshiba and Mitsubishi, all in Japan, where the Government has been pressing for standardization on one system for Japanese manufacturers.

Forch in Japan is to sell RCA-system players in the United States. Philips's argument that its laser technology is at the beginning of its development potential rather than being already near full stretch—as it is claimed are the capacitor systems of RCA and JVC—an argument strongly contested by RCA.

But not everybody believes that the videodisc is heading for an early consumer boom. RCA has been talking about selling six million players and 250 million discs a year within 10 years. But Mackintosh Consultants, the United Kingdom analysts of the electronics industry, forecast an annual sales of two million at best by 1990 and possibly only half that.

Sony believes that rather than being an early consumer boom videodisc sales will be more for specialist users at first—in business and institutions, for example.

VCRs might turn out to be wholly competitive with discs in the total video market, rather than the systems being largely complementary.

A videodisc player able to record like a VCR is probably 10 years away, but VCRs are more expensive, in Britain ranging between £400 for older designs to nearly £700 for the latest. Disc prices are expected to be no more than £15—half the price of comparable VCR pre-recorded offerings.

Discs will offer two hours of entertainment compared with up to eight on some VCR tapes. If freeze frame techniques were used fully to store information it would be possible—as the manufacturers are wont grandly to point out—to get on to one disc the contents of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

What seems certain is that the battle between VCR and videodisc, and between the three videodisc systems, will not be over quickly and among the three systems is likely to be a bloody one.

Ross Davies

## Business Diary: Aston filler • Pomme de guerre

Kit Aston is standing down as the chairman of the engineering to fuel conglomerate Powell Duffryn in order to put in a year's public service as chairman for England of the International Year of the Disabled.

Aston, for three years executive chairman of Powell Duffryn, will be succeeded by a non-executive chairman, Lord Sandon, who is already on the PD board. John Franklin continues as managing director and has become chief executive, a role formerly shared with Aston.

Aston told me last night that, having come to PD three years ago on a three-year contract, he made his decision not to renew after a spell in hospital recovering from a cancer operation. Now 61, he says he has "a clean bill of health" after the operation, he nevertheless wants to put in a year for the disabled.

"I became interested in the welfare of the disabled when I was Mayor of Walsley in 1974 and 1976," he said, and having been invited to head the national fundraising effort he decided in hospital to take a "sabbatical year" in 1981.

Aston was an executive director of Ready Mixed Concrete when the call came from PD, and he remains a non-executive director of the former company. He has seen PD through a fruitful three years, having sold off loss-makers like Hymac excavators to B&H of West Germany, bought some profit-makers like National Pump of Phoenix, Arizona, streamlined London overheads—and organised the management structure that succeeds him.



"You have got to understand our motives. Only by reducing our labour force by another 60 per cent can we qualify as a firm small enough to receive government aid."

● More than £350,000 is to be spent by French and British fruit farmers in the next six weeks on advertising apples, more than ever before, in a resurgence of the "Apple War".

But it is also an attempt to repair the damage caused in the battles of 1980. Jonathan Chouet, the non-domestic director of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau, tells me that many distributors say that apple sales had dropped by more than 15 per cent.

The reason, he suspects, is that shoppers had been persuaded not to eat the French Golden Delicious—but the quality of the rival English Cox was not good enough to keep the doctor away. Figures from the scheme in which their fruit is promoted under the Kingdom brand.

Growers pay for every 10 pounds of apples to join the scheme in which their fruit is promoted under the Kingdom brand.

● Avraham Shavit is grasping El Al's national airline, by the neck and shaking it, with the result that about a quarter of a million pounds worth of advertising money is about to fall on to the British market.

The aggressive Shavit, who is in his early fifties, and has a highly successful business man's air, is a member of the board of El Al by the Israeli government about 12 months ago on a "dollar-a-year" agreement to pull round the airline. El Al had been hit by industrial troubles and lost nearly £40m in the financial year 1979-80.

He called in McKinsey, which found El Al to be weak in marketing expertise and not to be doing enough in advertising and promotion to recapture Jewish traffic which had been seduced away from the ethnic airline by cheap charters.

The ethnic market is being regained and there is now to be a big advertising campaign to promote Israel—not so much, as in the past, as the Holy Land with the desert thrown in, but as the sun and fun place of the eastern Mediterranean.

Nicholas Longe, chairman of the branding scheme, organized by the United Kingdom's Apple and Pear Development Council, says: "The principles of the scheme have been widely acclaimed, and the problems now lie with getting grower members and participants to make them work."

Growers pay for every 10 pounds of apples to join the scheme in which their fruit is promoted under the Kingdom brand.

● I wonder if there is anybody still around in London at British Steel or in New York at Lazard Freres who can throw some light on a story I heard that goes back eight years and four BSC chairmen?

The story, as I hear it, is this: that the appointment earlier this year of Ian McGregor to chair BSC is not the first time the state corporation has looked to the United States or indeed to Lazard for an executive appointment.

I hear further that the then Pan Am man agreed, and that the appointment was OK'd by Edward Heath, then Prime Minister.

All went well until the sudden death in 1973 of the then BSC chairman, Lord Melchett, whereupon the arrangement was dropped.

If true, then the story would suggest that the rabbit that Joseph pulled out of the hat of MacGregor is one that had been around for some time.

The Algerian mediation in the hostage dispute has done much to balance the prejudice against Islamic countries caused by the Iranian antics, but much ill-feeling remains if a joke I heard is anything to go by. Hardly had the hostages left Tehran Airport than a wag quipped: "Now the Algerians have got the hostages and the money, I suppose they will keep both."

Arraham Shavit



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Handsome gains for second line stocks

Leading equities were firm again yesterday though volume was slim. Second-line stocks saw some handsome price rises, in rather restricted markets. Life insurance shares were a feature, and selected building shares were also in demand. But leading oil shares lost ground.

Fear of a national strike by water workers, and rumours in the afternoon that American stockmarket pundit, Mr Joseph Granville, may have put out a second sell recommendation for Wall Street, caused some slip-slapping among United Kingdom market leaders.

Shortly before the close, prices steadied. However, a 4.1 point rise in the FT 100 at three o'clock was reduced to a 3.1 improvement by the close, at 461.7.

The undertone among leading shares was good, with investors anxious not to miss any rises. Trade was thin, and several stocks did well on special circumstances. Grand Metropolitan benefited from Trusthouse Forte's better than expected figures, and gained 4p to 156p. De La Rue was up 1p to 141p, and the company's 23p to 69p. Bowater jumped to benefit from its American oil and gas interests, and rose 7p to 187p. Distillers improved 2p to 186p; and BAT went 5p higher to 238p.

Rank, with a strong rise, rose 3p to 155p. Unilever added 3p to 446p, but ICI and Beechams were unchanged at 286p and 170p apiece.

Gilts had a quiet day but held up quite well, with one around 10 1/2 better only to relinquish the gain briefly before closing 1 1/2 better after all. Shorts also had a more difficult day, with a few sellers in evidence, but after opening 1 1/2 higher and subsequently losing that rise, they finally closed that much better overall.

recently, pushed up yesterday by a handful of buyers. With no sellers about share prices rose steeply. Legal & General started with a 10p rise to 205p, while Hambro Life gained 6p to 298p, Pearl rose 8p to 412p, Refuge put on 8p to 212p, and the Prudential added 6p to 225p.

Composite insurance shares were firm in reasonable trading. Royal added 6p to 340p, while the new rose 6p to 251p premium. General Accident and Guardian Royal both added 2p to 286p, and 288p respectively. Building issues saw Blue Circle up 8p to 342p and BPF 7p higher at 225p. Trade in the sector generally was not heavy but prices were very firm. RMC gained 5p to 163p and Parmax was also 5p better at 253p.

Stores had a busy morning but activity tailed off during the afternoon. House of Fraser was unchanged at 126p but mail order stocks went better. Empire Stores added 2p to 118p and Freeman rose the same amount to 110p. Grattan was

steady at 58p. Dixon's Photographic was in demand and gained 5p to 137p. Properties saw Stock Conversion and British Land reporting interim figures yesterday, with Stock Conversion closing unchanged at 315p and British Land 1p better at 93p. MEPC added 6p to 225p.

Thomas Tilling should be an important beneficiary of the decline in interest rates on both sides of Atlantic and should show some of the earliest signs of recovery from the recession because of its emphasis on construction services and building materials. Capital expenditure figures in March, Tilling is recommended as a buy for recovery. The shares are 139p.

added 1p to 219p after its annual meeting. Warner Estate also reported yesterday, and closed unchanged at 308p as did Marler Estates at 72p.

Trusthouse Forte's better than expected figures and scrip issue left the shares 12p higher at 156p.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
AGS (I)	14,661(10.2)	1,461(1.9)	3,381(2.7)	21(1.5)	—	(4.13)
Albion (F)	—	0.16(0.72)	11.9(18.9)	Nil(—)	—	0.6(2.75)
Anglia TV (F)	32.7(19.3)	4,662(7.2)	28.0(14.9)	30(2.0)	28.4	5.0(3.57)
Ashted Ind (I)	14.1(1.1)	—	3.17(2.71)	8(—)	—	3.5(3.0)
Ashted Ind (I)	7,771(7.06)	0.43(0.34)	—	1.67(1.67)	6/4	—
British Land (I)	—	1.66(0.97)	—	—	—	—
Camford (F)	42.1(37.5)	0.92(2.5)	4.39(12.8)	Nil(—)	—	1.62(—)
Canal (F)	14,414(10.3)	0.04(0.1)	11.7(104.8)	1.0(0.1)	—	7.2(7.3)
Dunbar Group (F)	—	0.56(0.4)	—	3.1(—)	—	6.2(5.8)
J. Saville Gordon (F)	10.27(13.97)	0.31(0.72)	—	0.52(1.94)	1.4	0.32(2.4)
Lovell (F)	69.6(69.2)	0.93(2.0)	8.4(20.8)	2.45(2.45)	30/4	3.63(3.85)
Marler (F)	1.2(1.1)	0.01(0.1)	—	1.0(1.0)	21/2	—
ORE (F)	0.39(0.35)	0.08(0.05)	—	—	—	—
Stratford Kaiting (I)	5.4(4.9)	0.37(0.24)	6.32(4.18)	0.5(0.3)	3.3	—
Stock Conversion (I)	—	5.81(4.18)	—	1.75(1.46)	30/3	3.2(2.6)
Trusthouse Forte (F)	72,721(14)	0.08(0.1)	23.3(20.0)	6.75(6.75)	7/2	9(8)
Unilever (F)	—	3.35(2.08)	—	14.0(13.62)	—	23.0(20.0)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown net of tax. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are det. = Loss.

at 195p. AGB Research also reacted well to results, 13p up at 27p. New Witwatersrand rose 10p to 460p and Sterling Knitting gained 6p to 38p after figures. Symonds Engineering added 2p to 10p, but Camford Engineering's trading news left it 4p lower at 144p.

Other engineering shares saw Hawker Siddeley up 4p to 246p; and Haden Carrier went 10p higher at 190p in strong demand. Westland at the first covered ground lost the day before, but ended just 1p better at 124p. Prices generally were firm, but there was not much trade.

Defence stocks in the electrical sector showed some handsome rises over the previous close, though much of that improvement had been chalked up after hours on Tuesday when buyers came in after the official news that defence spending cuts had not been increased. Yesterday's prices were firm.

GEC closed at 586p, showing an 8p rise. Ferranti was 5p up at 46p while Racal had added 6p to 308p and United Scient-

ific was 17p higher at 298p. United closed at 230p, up 10p. Electrocomponents also added 10p to 633p; while Rediffusion came in for some profit-taking and fell 5p to 113p. Thorn-EMI added 2p to 252p.

Higher bid terms from Nesco sent Colmore Investments up 3p to 331p while Centraway, which sold its stake in Colmore to Nesco, rose 3p to 109p. A 2m rights issue was under way, pushing the shares 3p up to 70p.

Silkolene was sought after and jumped 20p to 274p. Major oil shares were weak with Shell down 10p to 444p and BP 12p lower to 392p. Lammco fell 13p to 68p; Ultramar lost 7p to 488p and Tricentral relin- quished 8p to 302p. But Burmah edged up 1p to 184p and Canadgas held level at 206p. Berkeley closed flat at 223p.

Mining shares had a better day with a bit more business, but prices began to drift off after hours as the bullion price eased. Anglo American Gold closed 2 1/2 better at 245p; and West Driftenstein was 2 1/2 higher to 233p. St Helena gained the same amount, to 119p; and Vast Reefs rose 1 1/2 to 235p.

Equity turnover on January 20, was 576,679m (11,485 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: Bowater, Royal Dutch Pet. Shell, Britannia Arrow, BBA, Amax, Distillers, Boats, Racal, BP, UDT, Barclays Bank, BICC, Barker & Dobson and Becham.

Traded Options: Expiry day was 22nd January. Day 1 contracts recorded. Lounho on 268 contracts drew most of the business along with Courtaulds on 258.

Traditional options saw calls in Armstrong Equipment, Sp. Bowater on 19p and London Inv Trust on 21p.

## Record year at Anglia TV, but outlook uncertain

By Peter Wilson-Smith  
Record profits from Anglia Television group, reflecting last year's surge in advertising revenues, left the "A" shares 4p higher at 80p. Pretax profits increased from £27.2m to £4.66m—a rise of 71 per cent—against the £2.7m of the Exchequer Levy, which was up from £1m to £3.36m.

Television contractors' advertising revenue rose sharply in 1980, due in large part to recovery from the 1979 advertising slump. For calendar 1980 it increased by 53 per cent and Anglia, with an October 31 year end, has not only benefited from this but also claims a continuing increase in its network share.

However, the group, which retained its franchise for East Anglia under the recent Independent Broadcasting Authority review although suffering some pointed references about its regional coverage, is expecting little growth in advertising revenue this financial year.

Mr David McCall, a director, said advertising revenues, after holding up well, had been under pressure since the last quarter of 1980 and although he expected some increase in the current year he would be surprised if Anglia's results in 1980-81 exceeded last year.

Group turnover rose by 69 per cent to £22.7m—split fairly evenly between the two halves. However, nearly two thirds of

pretax profits fell in the first half. During the second half, which spans the summer, Anglia bore further wage increases relating to the staggered 40 per cent strike settlement and increased programming costs.

The final dividend has been raised by half, leaving the total up from 5.1p to 7.1p gross.

On the Fourth Channel which began in 1980, Mr McCall said Anglia should be able to recover its £3.6m subscription from increased advertising revenue. However, he saw breakfast television, which is scheduled to start in 1983 as a competitor for advertising revenue.

## Crystalate plans to expand with £2m rights issue

By Margaret Pagano  
Crystalate Holdings yesterday called on shareholders to raise £2.02m with a rights issue to finance possible acquisitions and new lines in electronic and telecommunications products.

The issue is of £2.02m worth of 9.5 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock. It will be on the basis of £1 of stock for every seven ordinary shares. Stock may be converted in February from 1983 to 1999 into shares at the rate of 70p nominal stock per share. The share price gained 4p to 70p on the news.

Crystalate has rapidly transformed from a plastic injection moulding group to a component maker for the electronics and telecommunications industries. It has steadily eliminated most of its loss-making plastics concerns, and 80 per cent of sales are now from the electronics division. Mr John Leworthy, the chair-

man, said that the issue is being raised to fund potential acquisitions. "We have a number which are in the air at the moment although nothing specific," he said. "But we would like the flexibility to take advantage of any opportunity."

The group is also looking at the developments of new products within the telecommunications field. Although present working capital is sufficient, the cash will be used to save on interest charges, he said. Borrowings are just below £1m.

Crystalate has been involved in the Post Office's pilot trials of a new microchip telephone, which would replace the carbon granules in the present telephone earpieces. If these are used by the Post Office in the next generation of telephones, Crystalate should be one of the larger suppliers. Over half of the PO's present maintenance calls are to replace the carbon earpieces at heavy labour costs.

## Trafalgar assets 'not for sale'

By Philip Robinson  
Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, shipping, hotels, construction, and newspaper empire, was questioned by shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday on whether the company was planning to sell assets.

He was specifically asked whether the group is selling any of its three cruise ships which include the QE2, or if it was time to "abandon ship" on its newspaper interest, which include Express Newspapers.



Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House.

Mr Brookes said: "In the past we have had unsolicited offers for the ships but the are not for sale." And, on newspapers, he said: "The unit, that I mean Express Newspapers, stands at a place. We should consider closing or selling. We are determined to make it work better than it is working at present. This is profitable at the moment."

## J. Saville Gordon sharply lower as sales slump

By Our Financial Staff  
Birmingham-based metal merchants J. Saville Gordon yesterday reported a steep fall in pretax profits to £16,200 from £722,900 in the half year October.

Sales also fell to £10.37m from £19.9m last year. An interim dividend of 0.75p gross is recommended. Mr John Saville, the chairman, says that although trading is poor, the group has few big assets and is well placed to cope with the difficulties. The engineer's merchants and stock holding division had, on again, been able to meet its difficulties, but lower sales meant squeezed profits, he said. Sales fell back dramatically after the steel strike in the metal trading and processing division. With the fall in metal prices and low margins, the board has provided for possible stock losses.

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Credits	14%
C. Moore & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

\* 7 day deposit on sums of £20,000 or more, 11 1/2%  
£20,000 12 1/2%, over

## International

## Toray up sharply

Toray Industries of Japan yesterday reported that Consolidated net income for the first half year to September 30 rose to ¥15,900m yen (about £32m) from ¥5,000m yen the year before.

The sharp rise was helped by foreign exchange profits of ¥6,600m yen, compared with foreign exchange losses of ¥6,000m yen a year ago, the company said.

## French textile loss

Rhone-Poulenc Textiles, the textile division of the French chemical group, is expected to record a consolidated loss for 1980 of 850m francs (about £77m) on sales of 2,500m francs.

Mr Jean Gandois, group president, said 1980 was a "black year" for European textiles. He blamed the heavy loss on disorderly competition and heavy imports, and unveiled an accelerated plan involving the dismissal of nearly 50 per cent of the workforce of its textile division.

## Record year for Alcan

Consolidated net income of Alcan Aluminium rose to a record US\$542m (£233.9m) in 1980 against \$427m the year before, the company said in Montreal. Earnings a share rose from \$5.28 in 1979 to \$6.70.

Fourth quarter consolidated net income rose to \$125m, or \$1.54 a share, from \$117m, or \$1.44 a share, in the fourth quarter of 1979.

Adjusting grades to the occasion is a fine art, and a great deal depends on the flexibility of the mining plan and the techniques employed.

Michael Frost  
Mining Correspondent

## New Life Business

Eagle Star: Eagle Star Group announces new Life Business figures for 1980. Worldwide, new annual premiums were £37.8m (£29.5m in 1979) and single premiums were £69.3m (£54.2m). Net new amounts assured were £9,902m (£2,176m). In the United Kingdom, new annual premiums amounted to £30m (£23.7m), an increase of 28 per cent, and new single premiums and considerations for immediate annuities were 20 per cent up at £62.3m (£52.0m). Net new amounts assured were £2,315m (£1,757m) including £461m (£372m) in respect of the capitalized value of deferred annuities. New annual premiums for United Kingdom ordinary life business were 7 per cent up at £5.7m against £5.36m in 1979.

Phoenix Assurance: The 1980 life business results for Phoenix Group Companies worldwide are: new sum assured, £2,734.2m (1979, £2,006.4m); new annuities per annum, £25.3m (£20.2m); new annual premiums, £22.1m (£17.5m); new single premiums, £23.4m (£26.9m). In addition, Ebor Phoenix, which writes marine and aviation business, has funds under management of £17m (increased from £11.0m). Results in the United Kingdom were excellent. Phoenix made strong progress with new sum assured under individual policies increasing by 38 per cent and under group policies by 40 per cent. New annual premiums in these classes increased by 25 per cent and 49 per cent respectively. These figures, together with the 40 per cent increase in new annuities per annum reflects the continuing heavy demand for protection policies and pensions provision in 1980.

Commercial Union: Commercial Union Assurance reports worldwide new annual premiums for 1980 of £39.0m (1979 £41.2m) and single premiums of £28.6m (£28.7m). New sum assured, £2,849m (£2,537m) and new annuities per annum of £70.0m (£74.1m) were secured. Allowance for the effect of exchange rate movements, the sale of the majority shareholding in Commercial Union Assurance, Southern Africa in 1979 and the disposal of C.U.'s life business in Australia and New Zealand during 1980, this represents an annual increase of 9 per cent, and single premiums of 15 per cent. The U.K. portion of this business consisted of new annual premiums of £15.1m (£18.2m), new single premiums of £5.7m (£5.4m). New sum assured of £1,527m (£1,353m) and new annuities per annum of £23.1m (£20.8m). Further, new permanent health insurance business in the U.K. amounted to: new annual premiums £1.2m (£0.8m) and new benefits per annum, £114m (£22m).

Ordinary life assurance and annuity business: Individual life assurance and annuities produced new annual premium income of £9.7m (£10.5m) and single premiums of £21.3m (£17.9m). These figures include the unlinked business of Sun Life Assurance, which amounted to new annual premiums of £0.63m (£0.59m) and single premiums of £7.2m (£5.8m).

## AVERAGE EARNINGS

Index	1979	1980	Change over previous 12 months	1980	1981	Change over previous 12 months
1979	158.7	16.8	13.4	—	—	—
Oct	160.1	19.2	22.4	—	—	—
Nov	164.5	10.7	30.5	—	—	—
1980	—	—	—	164.2	20.2	14.8
Jan	168.0	18.8	18.2	—	—	—
Feb	172.9	18.8	18.2	—	—	—
Mar	175.3	21.3	29.9	—	—	—
Apr	177.0	21.3	20.3	—	—	—
May	182.3	21.3	29.9	—	—	—
Jun	182.3	18.8	18.2	—	—	—
Jul	187.8	21.7	26.2	—	—	—
Aug	184.1	21.7	26.2	—	—	—
Sep	180.8	20.1	18.2	—	—	—
Oct	182.5	18.7	10.9	—	—	—

## Property groups up at interim stage

By Peter Wainwright

The tax charge neatly separates the good figures from the bad in the interim statements from Stock Conversion and Investment Trust, known for conservative accounting and quality of earnings.

After a fall in revenue before tax from £8.65m to £8.26m in the full year 1979-80 the group raised it from £4.18m to £5.81m in the six months to September 30. This reflected renewed vitality in dealing profits, up from £63,000 to £752,000, and rent reviews at the Euston Centre scheme last July where Stock Conversion has a half share.

But the good work was spoilt by an unannounced tax charge leaping from £1.37m to £3.11m so that after tax revenue fell from £2.8m to £2.7m. Hitherto the group has benefited from stock relief written back, reflecting properties held in the course of business in earlier years. The group has, however, temporarily run out of such properties and the full year's figures will also show tax at around 52 per cent.

The group adds that no

further dealing profits are expected over the rest of the financial year, but the thrust in rental income should ensure profits of around £10.5m for the year against £6.6m.

The shares rested at 315p where, still given a one-fifth rise in dividend, the shares yield only 1.8 per cent. Assets are thought to be worth more than 500p a share.

British Land's six months to last September covered successful bids for United Kingdom Property and The Corn Exchange but only one month's revenue from them appears in the interim figures. These show an increase in pretax surplus from £973,000 to £1,66m and after only one month's net surplus of £1.6m.

Rising rents (gross rents up from £5.7m to £6.2m) and falling interest charges, down from £5.9m to £4.88m, indicate an improving earnings quality, but at the halfway stage at least the group's shares were down thanks to big increases in ordinary capital.

The shares rose 1p to 93p and stand at a good discount to net assets of possibly 140p a share.

## Business appointments

## New chief for Powell Duffryn

Viscount Sandon has been elected chairman of Powell Duffryn in succession to Mr C. Aston who has left the board. Mr John Franklin continues as managing director and has been additionally appointed chief executive.

Mr James Dowler is now managing director of Rank Film Laboratories.

Mr Peter Farquhar-Allen has joined J. H. Schroder Wagg & Company as an assistant director.

Mr Cyril Teed has been named by Messrs Defence Systems for the new post of marketing director.

Mr S. Edmund Baucher, has resigned as chairman and a director of North West Holdings having reached normal retirement age last year, but will retain a consultant role.

Mr Peter Rintoul and Mr Nigel Cobbin have become directors of London and Garmouth Investment Trust.

## Stock Exchange confirms delay in CCA rule

The Stock Exchange confirmed in a statement yesterday that it is effectively delaying until October 1982 a requirement for companies to produce current cost accounting figures with their half-time statements.

But the exchange says that a rule, passed last summer, requiring inflation accounting to conform with IAS 16 for full-year results, will start this year covering the trading period 1980.

Confusion over whether the exchange was poised to shelve the whole IAS 16 requirement for 12 months after the end of the sources predicted a storm of protests from industrial companies and a consultative statement from the Inland Revenue stating that was unlikely to base relief of stock appreciation on CCA figures.

However, unfortunately it may have been for the American hostages in Iran, the agonizing delay of their departure steadied the gold market. On Friday, when release appeared imminent, dealers were poised for a fall, but in the event there was plenty of time to absorb the news, which had been fairly well discounted anyway.

Indeed, the price recovered somewhat, partly because speculators scrambled to cover short positions. Yesterday it rose \$14.50 in London to \$578.

But \$578 is not the price many gold bugs were expecting, or hoping for a year ago, and there is now a feeling that the hostages' freedom has removed the last of the extraordinary concatenation of events that dispatched gold on its dizzy course at the end of 1979: they are left with a largely technical market, in which assessments of inflation, currency fluctuations and interest rates are the determining factors. Without clear direction, the gold market is casting a shadow over gold shares.

## Briefly

Gosforth Industrial Holdings: Globe Investment Trust has disposed of its entire holding — 1.14m ordinary shares.

Manson Finance Trust Limited has formed a leasing division to deal in all forms of leasing and lease broking.

O.R.E. Ltd.: Turnover for year to September 30 1980 (period August 1, 1979 to September 30, 1980) was £57,000. Profit £85,000 (£52,500). Chairman, Mr Albert Wilson, says that overall prospects for 1981 are encouraging.

Dunbar Group: Pretax profit for 1980 £562,500 (£405,000). Final dividend 6p net. Chairman states that all main activities of group are capable of expansion and it is for this reason that he is optimistic the business will prosper over years. Shares traded on the unlisted securities market.

Stock Conversion and Investment Trust: Pretax revenue for six months to September 30 £5.8m (£4.1m). Including associated companies £84,000 (£24,000) but less minority shares and steps in partly-owned subsidiary £919,000 (£773,000). Interim, 1.75p, net.

Symonds Engineering: Interim dividend 0.31p gross for six months to September 30 £1.4m (£1.14m). Pretax profit £86,000 (£101,000). Eps 0.512p (£0.551p). Board will be springing all its efforts and skills to improve percentage of profitability against turnover. Co is a "close co."

Horne Brothers: Turnover for year to September 30 £14,45m (£14,03m). Pretax profit £1,000 (£1,03m). Eps 11.7p (£10.4p). Dividend 7p (7.3p). Current year has not met expectations in terms of retail sales and steps continue to be taken in improving efficiency in the use of resources to minimise the impact of rising costs.

Mills and Allen International: Has reached agreement in principle to acquire the 51 per cent of Euro Brokers Ltd. owned by the Midlands motor distributor, by 3p a share, which gives Colmore







# BELL'S

## SCOTCH WHISKY

# BELL'S

Stock Exchange Prices

# Higher in thin market

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 2

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1980-81				1980-81				1980-81				1980-81				1980-81			
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>																			
9801	9802	9803	9804	9805	9806	9807	9808	9809	9810	9811	9812	9813	9814	9815	9816	9817	9818	9819	9820
9821	9822	9823	9824	9825	9826	9827	9828	9829	9830	9831	9832	9833	9834	9835	9836	9837	9838	9839	9840
<b>COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL</b>																			
9841	9842	9843	9844	9845	9846	9847	9848	9849	9850	9851	9852	9853	9854	9855	9856	9857	9858	9859	9860
9861	9862	9863	9864	9865	9866	9867	9868	9869	9870	9871	9872	9873	9874	9875	9876	9877	9878	9879	9880
<b>COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN</b>																			
9881	9882	9883	9884	9885	9886	9887	9888	9889	9890	9891	9892	9893	9894	9895	9896	9897	9898	9899	9900
9901	9902	9903	9904	9905	9906	9907	9908	9909	9910	9911	9912	9913	9914	9915	9916	9917	9918	9919	9920
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b>																			
9921	9922	9923	9924	9925	9926	9927	9928	9929	9930	9931	9932	9933	9934	9935	9936	9937	9938	9939	9940
9941	9942	9943	9944	9945	9946	9947	9948	9949	9950	9951	9952	9953	9954	9955	9956	9957	9958	9959	9960
<b>DOLLAR STOCKS</b>																			
9961	9962	9963	9964	9965	9966	9967	9968	9969	9970	9971	9972	9973	9974	9975	9976	9977	9978	9979	9980
9981	9982	9983	9984	9985	9986	9987	9988	9989	9990	9991	9992	9993	9994	9995	9996	9997	9998	9999	10000
<b>BANKS AND DISCOUNTS</b>																			
10001	10002	10003	10004	10005	10006	10007	10008	10009	10010	10011	10012	10013	10014	10015	10016	10017	10018	10019	10020
10021	10022	10023	10024	10025	10026	10027	10028	10029	10030	10031	10032	10033	10034	10035	10036	10037	10038	10039	10040
<b>BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES</b>																			
10041	10042	10043	10044	10045	10046	10047	10048	10049	10050	10051	10052	10053	10054	10055	10056	10057	10058	10059	10060
10061	10062	10063	10064	10065	10066	10067	10068	10069	10070	10071	10072	10073	10074	10075	10076	10077	10078	10079	10080
<b>SHIPPING</b>																			
10081	10082	10083	10084	10085	10086	10087	10088	10089	10090	10091	10092	10093	10094	10095	10096	10097	10098	10099	10100
10101	10102	10103	10104	10105	10106	10107	10108	10109	10110	10111	10112	10113	10114	10115	10116	10117	10118	10119	10120
<b>MINES</b>																			
10121	10122	10123	10124	10125	10126	10127	10128	10129	10130	10131	10132	10133	10134	10135	10136	10137	10138	10139	10140
10141	10142	10143	10144	10145	10146	10147	10148	10149	10150	10151	10152	10153	10154	10155	10156	10157	10158	10159	10160
<b>FINANCIAL TRUSTS</b>																			
10161	10162	10163	10164	10165	10166	10167	10168	10169	10170	10171	10172	10173	10174	10175	10176	10177	10178	10179	10180
10181	10182	10183	10184	10185	10186	10187	10188	10189	10190	10191	10192	10193	10194	10195	10196	10197	10198	10199	10200
<b>INSURANCE</b>																			
10201	10202	10203	10204	10205	10206	10207	10208	10209	10210	10211	10212	10213	10214	10215	10216	10217	10218	10219	10220
10221	10222	10223	10224	10225	10226	10227	10228	10229	10230	10231	10232	10233	10234	10235	10236	10237	10238	10239	10240
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>																			
10241	10242	10243	10244	10245	10246	10247	10248	10249	10250	10251	10252	10253	10254	10255	10256	10257	10258	10259	10260
10261	10262	10263	10264	10265	10266	10267	10268	10269	10270	10271	10272	10273	10274	10275	10276	10277	10278	10279	10280
<b>PROPERTY</b>																			
10281	10282	10283	10284	10285	10286	10287	10288	10289	10290	10291	10292	10293	10294	10295	10296	10297	10298	10299	10300
10301	10302	10303	10304	10305	10306	10307	10308	10309	10310	10311	10312	10313	10314	10315	10316	10317	10318	10319	10320
<b>RUBBER</b>																			
10321	10322	10323	10324	10325	10326	10327	10328	10329	10330	10331	10332	10333	10334	10335	10336	10337	10338	10339	10340
10341	10342	10343	10344	10345	10346	10347	10348	10349	10350	10351	10352	10353	10354	10355	10356	10357	10358	10359	10360
<b>TEA</b>																			
10361	10362	10363	10364	10365	10366	10367	10368	10369	10370	10371	10372	10373	10374	10375	10376	10377	10378	10379	10380
10381	10382	10383	10384	10385	10386	10387	10388	10389	10390	10391	10392	10393	10394	10395	10396	10397	10398	10399	10400
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>																			
10401	10402	10403	10404	10405	10406	10407	10408	10409	10410	10411	10412	10413	10414	10415	10416	10417	10418	10419	10420
10421	10422	10423	10424	10425	10426	10427	10428	10429	10430	10431	10432	10433	10434	10435	10436	10437	10438	10439	10440
<b>RECENT ISSUES</b>																			
10441	10442	10443	10444	10445	10446	10447	10448	10449	10450	10451	10452	10453	10454	10455	10456	10457	10458	10459	10460
10461	10462	10463	10464	10465	10466	10467	10468	10469	10470	10471	10472	10473	10474	10475	10476	10477	10478	10479	10480









## Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants

### MEDIA EXTORTION \$5,200 PLUS

This is a terrific job working for one of London's top advertising agencies. You will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department.

### MEDIA ALL-ROUNDER \$5,000

You'll have had some previous experience in a media department. You'll have had some previous experience in a media department. You'll have had some previous experience in a media department.

### BRIGHT GRADUATE \$6,000 PLUS

You'll need a degree in English and/or History, some secretarial ability, although not essential, an aptitude for research and cataloguing and some interest and experience in antiquarian literature. This excellent opportunity adds up to a really exciting job, involving a specialist in the field of antiquarian literature. Good prospects for the right person. Please, contact the person. Please, contact the person.

### TOP P.A./SEC. \$6,000

A great opportunity to join a leading W.I. advertising agency. You'll be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department.

### \$6,000 COOK/SECRETARY

Full time, 9-5, with good salary and pension. You will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department.

### Partner's Secretary-WC2

Well groomed and efficient Secretary required for a busy practice. You will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department.

## adpowerandstad

### DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

**\$6,095 p.a. Hammersmith**  
We are a growing company within the Greater Metropolitan Area, concerned with contract catering and the management of staff facilities in the UK and overseas. We are in bright, modern offices and are proud of the friendly spirit in the company. We need a Secretary to work with our Director of Human Resources who is responsible for personnel on a worldwide basis. The job requires excellent secretarial skills and offers challenge, variety and the opportunity to be involved in an interesting side of industry, where policy is made and legislative advice given. You will also be involved in secretarial recruitment. You must have had senior secretarial experience, ideally at board level, and be at least 30. A good educational background is required and a pleasant telephone manner is essential. If this describes you, then write or telephone immediately for an application form to: Mr Steven Friedlander, Balemam Grandmet Holdings Ltd, Sanda House, Cambridge Grove, London W6 0LE. Tel: 01-741 1541

### SECRETARY TO THE MARKETING MANAGER

LONDON EC2  
c £6,300 + annual bonus

The Marketing Manager, a Director of The Equitable Life, is looking for an experienced Senior Secretary who will appreciate the opportunity to act on his/her own initiative on a wide range of business matters as well as providing a comprehensive secretarial service. Applicants should be aged 30-45 years with a good general level of education and have at least 5 years' senior secretarial experience. In addition to the annual bonus, fringe benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme, 20 days holiday per year, a staff restaurant offering free lunches plus the opportunity in the future to be considered for a staff house purchase loan at concessionary rates. For further details and/or an application form please contact Miss Carol Hordern, The Equitable Life Assurance Society, Equitable Life House, Bucks Way, 70th, Telephone: Aylesbury 88771-Interviews will be held at the London office.

### \$6,000

Secretary with good shorthand/typing skills, 25-30, to work in personnel department of E.C.2 professional company. Lots of administration.

### \$5,800+

Professional E.C.4 company seek shorthand/audio secretary (30/38) for staff and training manager. Salary uplift after three months.

### CHOICE APPOINTMENTS

2nd Floor, 48 Cornhill, E.C.3  
Tel: 01-621 0130 (Rec. Cons.)

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO SENIOR PARTNER

c £6,000

Well established firm of Consulting Engineers situated in beautiful West End offices, is seeking to recruit a P.A. Shortland Secretary with previous secretarial experience. This position is ideal for a person who enjoys working on their own initiative with constant client contact and full responsibility for varied detailed administration. A friendly and outgoing personality, high standard of presentation and a good sense of humour are essential. Ref: LC/022.

### PERSONNEL/SHORTHAND SECRETARY

Negotiable from £5,500

International Marketing organization, based in S.W.1., requires a Shortland Secretary aged 24+ with some previous Personnel experience. Excellent opportunity for a Secretary with good skills (min. 100 w.p.m. shorthand and 60 w.p.m. typing) who enjoys being involved in the day to day running of a busy Personnel department. Candidates should be well presented with an excellent telephone manner and a pleasant personality. Ref: LC/021. For full details please contact Miss Rosalee Prescott.

### La Creme

Executive Secretarial Recruitment  
278 Strand, London WC2. 01-836 8866

### INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES

During 1980 we placed secretaries in Belgium, France, Holland, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, East Africa, West Africa, South America, Central Africa, etc. We also found jobs in London for Secretaries with French, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Norwegian and Japanese and temporary work for many of our applicants while they wait for the right job. If we can help you why not contact us? We have current vacancies throughout London, Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

TELEPHONE: 01-491 7108 OR WRITE TO:  
17 BERKELEY STREET, LONDON W1X 3AL

### International Secretaries

17 Berkeley Street, London W1X 3AL 01-491 7108

### HARLEY STREET GENERAL PRACTICE

Wishes to appoint Executive Secretary with shorthand. Medical experience not essential. Must be able to work under pressure and take responsibility. A sense of humour and an interest in people, especially international visitors, an advantage. Lively, stimulating atmosphere. 5 day week, garage space, L.V.s. 5 weeks holiday with pay. Salary £5,500 negotiable.

WRITE WITH C.V. AND NAMES OF TWO REFEREES, TO BOX NO 2582 F, THE TIMES.

### AMERICAN BANK

Wishes to recruit the following:-  
**SECRETARY/PA £6,500 + mortgage**  
24+ with good speed, pace and ability of initiative to join a young American Vice-President in international banking. Interesting and varied role-regional involvement and excellent career prospects.

**SECRETARY/PA £5,800 + mortgage**  
Excellent person to assist charming Company Secretary. Good skills please. Friendly modern offices and prospects!  
Appointments: 01-606 4711

01-621 0130 (Rec. Cons.)

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE ST THOMAS'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL LONDON SE1 7EH

### PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

For a Medical School Department and D.H.S.S. Health Service Research Unit. The successful applicant would be in daily contact with the Head of Department and would be involved in undertaking day-to-day personnel duties and administrative tasks. There will be opportunities to progress in other areas of health service administration, depending on the candidate's ability to communicate at all levels and who has had relevant experience in research administration/personnel or a graduate with typing experience. Salary, depending on relevant N.S.S. experience, on General Administrative Grade (25-30 to £8,838 inclusive). Applications with names and addresses, of two referees, or further inquiries to Mr G. M. Slingsby, 01-622 8224, to the above address. Closing date for applications: Friday, 4th February 1981.

### FASHION-WISE

£6,000

Administrative flair is vital when you join the Merchandise Director of the well known fashion group. Set up meetings, make arrangements, travel arrangements and keep the group running smoothly. Speeds 100/80 required. Superb company benefits.

FOR THIS AND MANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WHY NOT GIVE US A CALL-01-622 8122, CAROL SINNEY ST. W.I.

### BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY (German)

For world-famous chemical company in S.W. London. Age 21+. Salary £5,500+. Excellent opportunities.

### SECRETARY TO DEPT. MANAGER

of international electronics company, N.W. London suburbs. Age 21+. Good typing and shorthand. Super company benefits.

Tel: 01-433 2051  
FIRSTSTAFF PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS LTD.  
29/31 Oxford St, London W1

### PROFESSIONAL P.A.

£5,000 CITY

At a first class organization and good secretary you are fully utilized your skills. As a first class secretary to a Managing Director of a French wine co. in W.C.2. Extremely good salary and benefits for well spoken, ambitious and experienced person. Salary £5,500 neg.

### SECRETARY/PA

To organize busy young sales/marketing office. Excellent opportunity to work for a growing publishing company. If you have the necessary experience and would like details of this very special opportunity, salary around £5,500, please phone Mrs SHIREEN PICKERING-01-637 2211

### Secretaries

Ready for an administrative job?

Duncan, Flockhart and Co. Ltd. is an established pharmaceutical company which includes in its product range, analgesics, biologicals, antihypertensives and anaesthetics. Due to retirement we seek an Administrative Assistant to the Sales Services Manager. Initially you will be based at our Bethnal Green site, but it is envisaged that the sales services function will transfer to our Head Office in Greenford, within the next 12 months. Primarily you will provide a total administrative service to a large and expanding sales force. You will also process returns of expenses, car mileage, absences, etc. and supervise clerical and secretarial staff within the department. You should have a minimum of 2 years' secretarial experience, be numerate and have good organizing ability. The preferred age range is late 20s to early 40s. The company offers an attractive salary, participation in Glaxo Group profitability, and non-contributory pension schemes. Please write for an application form, or further information to: Miss Anne Medlin, Assistant Personnel Officer, Duncan Flockhart and Co. Ltd., Bethnal Green, London E2 6LA, or call 01-739 3451, ext. 135.



### THE DECCA RECORD COMPANY LTD.

Located at Shepherds Bush W.14 and part of the international Poly Gram group of companies is seeking a Secretary/P.A., aged 25+, to work for the Executive Chairman.

Excellent secretarial skills, including shorthand, are essential, as is a basic knowledge of French and German. The successful applicant will be presentable, well spoken and possess a good telephone manner. This is a top secretarial position, which will also entail the day to day running of this busy office. Essential qualities therefore, are a keen sense of organization, and the ability to work with a minimum of supervision.

We offer an extremely competitive salary. 5 weeks annual holiday and a generous discount on a wide range of company products.

Please contact Brian McFall, Personnel Administrator on 01-743 9111

### PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

£6,750 + MORTGAGE

A vacancy has arisen within the personnel department of our client Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, a leading international company. You will be involved with a wide range of personnel duties, including interviewing, selection, and control of recruitment and training. This is a full time position, 9-5, with a salary of £6,750 p.a. plus mortgage. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a degree in a relevant field, preferably in the social sciences, and will have some experience in personnel work. The position offers excellent career prospects and a competitive salary. For further details and an application form, please contact Miss Jane Smith, Personnel Officer, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, 100 Broad Street, London EC2.

### Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

### PA WITH PROSPECTS

£6,150 + STL + LV's

My client seeks your ability to meet deadlines and stop him from losing his mind. You will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department.

01-621 0566

### SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT

The Law Society is the professional body of solicitors in England and Wales. Our Secretary, Contentious Business Department, is seeking a Senior Personal Assistant. This senior post requires a mature, experienced, efficient, organized and motivated individual with a minimum of 5 years' experience working in a solicitor's office, preferably dealing with contentious matters.

Duties will involve the typing of correspondence, reports, agendas, and minutes together with general secretarial/administrative duties including contact with other departments.

Salary range maximum £8,838 with commensurate salary according to age and experience.

Benefits include staff restaurant, season ticket for school bus, 6 months' service and 28 days annual holiday entitlement.

Applications to: The Personnel Officer, The Law Society, The Law Society's Hall, 112 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2. Telephone: 01-621 1222, ext. 228.

### SECRETARY TO PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE

A total opportunity for experienced Secretary, 30+, with shorthand and typing skills. Some research and statistical work. Interesting and varied role-regional involvement and excellent career prospects. Telephone: Miss Jane Smith, 01-621 0566

### KENTKOM

Recruitment Consultants

### TOP DOG

£5,500 +

PA to the ultimate in business success. You will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department. As well as the media department, you will be responsible for the media department.

01-621 0566

### CITY/STOCKBROKERS

TO £7,000

Secretary/PA needed to join an important City Stockbrokerage. Excellent opportunity to work for a growing publishing company. If you have the necessary experience and would like details of this very special opportunity, salary around £7,000, please phone Mrs SHIREEN PICKERING-01-637 2211

### Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
18 Grosvenor Street London W1  
Telephone 01-499 2921

### SECRETARY/PA

To organize busy young sales/marketing office. Excellent opportunity to work for a growing publishing company. If you have the necessary experience and would like details of this very special opportunity, salary around £5,500, please phone Mrs SHIREEN PICKERING-01-637 2211

### PERSONAL also

on page 28

### MOTOR CARS

### MERCEDES 230

Reg. EH 404  
1978, 2.3, 1600 cc, 2000 cc, 2300 cc, 2500 cc, 2800 cc, 3000 cc, 3500 cc, 4000 cc, 4500 cc, 5000 cc, 5500 cc, 6000 cc, 6500 cc, 7000 cc, 7500 cc, 8000 cc, 8500 cc, 9000 cc, 9500 cc, 10000 cc, 10500 cc, 11000 cc, 11500 cc, 12000 cc, 12500 cc, 13000 cc, 13500 cc, 14000 cc, 14500 cc, 15000 cc, 15500 cc, 16000 cc, 16500 cc, 17000 cc, 17500 cc, 18000 cc, 18500 cc, 19000 cc, 19500 cc, 20000 cc, 20500 cc, 21000 cc, 21500 cc, 22000 cc, 22500 cc, 23000 cc, 23500 cc, 24000 cc, 24500 cc, 25000 cc, 25500 cc, 26000 cc, 26500 cc, 27000 cc, 27500 cc, 28000 cc, 28500 cc, 29000 cc, 29500 cc, 30000 cc, 30500 cc, 31000 cc, 31500 cc, 32000 cc, 32500 cc, 33000 cc, 33500 cc, 34000 cc, 34500 cc, 35000 cc, 35500 cc, 36000 cc, 36500 cc, 37000 cc, 37500 cc, 38000 cc, 38500 cc, 39000 cc, 39500 cc, 40000 cc, 40500 cc, 41000 cc, 41500 cc, 42000 cc, 42500 cc, 43000 cc, 43500 cc, 44000 cc, 44500 cc, 45000 cc, 45500 cc, 46000 cc, 46500 cc, 47000 cc, 47500 cc, 48000 cc, 48500 cc, 49000 cc, 49500 cc, 50000 cc, 50500 cc, 51000 cc, 51500 cc, 52000 cc, 52500 cc, 53000 cc, 53500 cc, 54000 cc, 54500 cc, 55000 cc, 55500 cc, 56000 cc, 56500 cc, 57000 cc, 57500 cc, 58000 cc, 58500 cc, 59000 cc, 59500 cc, 60000 cc, 60500 cc, 61000 cc, 61500 cc, 62000 cc, 62500 cc, 63000 cc, 63500 cc, 64000 cc, 64500 cc, 65000 cc, 65500 cc, 66000 cc, 66500 cc, 67000 cc, 67500 cc, 68000 cc, 68500 cc, 69000 cc, 69500 cc, 70000 cc, 70500 cc, 71000 cc, 71500 cc, 72000 cc, 72500 cc, 73000 cc, 73500 cc, 74000 cc, 74500 cc, 75000 cc, 75500 cc, 76000 cc, 76500 cc, 77000 cc, 77500 cc, 78000 cc, 78500 cc, 79000 cc, 79500 cc, 80000 cc, 80500 cc, 81000 cc, 81500 cc, 82000 cc, 82500 cc, 83000 cc, 83500 cc, 84000 cc, 84500 cc, 85000 cc, 85500 cc, 86000 cc, 86500 cc, 87000 cc, 87500 cc, 88000 cc, 88500 cc, 89000 cc, 89500 cc, 90000 cc, 90500 cc, 91000 cc, 91500 cc, 92000 cc, 92500 cc, 93000 cc, 93500 cc, 94000 cc, 94500 cc, 95000 cc, 95500 cc, 96000 cc, 96500 cc, 97000 cc, 97500 cc, 98000 cc, 98500 cc, 99000 cc, 99500 cc, 100000 cc, 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